

## Silent Running – Chapter 19

“Wait a minute, something is wrong here.”

“What’s wrong?”

“This is page 207 and it should be chapter 21, not chapter 19.”

“Maybe you had a couple of longer chapters.”

“Must be, I hate it when it does that. And no, I don’t have stripper clips for the 7.62 or .50 caliber ammo. That’s one reason I have so many magazines, I have to load them by hand and it maybe take 2-3 minutes to reload a single mag.”

“And you have 25 mags for the M1A and 25 for the M16s?”

“I have 30½, a day after I wrote in a story the post office seized the mags, they came in the mail. I gave you 5 and still have 25 for the M4s and 40½ for the M1A.”

“How can you have ½ a magazine?”

“It’s that 10 round Kalifornia legal magazine. Anyway, I gave Aaron 10 so I still have 30½.”

“How often do you empty them?”

“I keep 70 percent of them loaded and 30 percent unloaded. Every day I empty 3 and reload 3. That gives the springs 3 days of rest after 7 days of compression. I told Aaron to do the same thing. If we’re expecting trouble, I load the 3 20 round and the 10 round magazine. In the meantime, to keep them straight, I keep them in 3 groups of 10.”

“Do you the same with the M16 magazines?”

“Yeah, I have 25 so I have 3 groups of 8. I keep six loaded in each group and 2 empty.”

“I took some of the extra mags you took off those soldiers and just kept them all loaded.”

“You might want to start rotating them. The 5.56 that Derek gets is on 10 round strippers and he had the adapter.”

“What about the Tac-50?”

“I think we’ll load 5 magazines each with A-MAX and Raufoss.”

“Ok.”

Ron and I got our second wind, something we needed after hauling the rifles, ammo and magazines to the patio table. We raised the umbrella for shade and Sharon brought us a pitcher of Ron's favorite, iced tea. While we were sitting there, 4 HETs pulled up. Derek got out of the cab of the first tractor and came to the patio.

"Playing soldier again?"

"We have orders, Dad. We're on our way to Little Rock to provide security for a VIP."

"Who?"

"They didn't tell us. They're sending a full troop of tanks with reloads and extra fuel. Must be someone important to send 5 Platoons."

"We've got your six, Derek," Ron growled. "How far is it from here to Little Rock?"

"About 230 miles, Ron. We'll take 82 into Texarkana and pick up I-30 to Little Rock. We figure about 6 hours."

"We can't cover your six at that distance, but we'll guard the home front. What's your brother doing?"

"His Guinea Pig is having babies."

"Nothing new about that. Say, does this have anything to do with those jets we saw earlier?"

"It could, but we weren't briefed on that."

"If you run into Hillary, smack her in the chops for me. I, for one, am digging out that microchip and it ain't going back in. I heard on the ham net that people are doing that because most of the scanners don't work and the infrastructure to verify your identity is down."

"You might be able to do that Dad; I'll see what I can find out in Little Rock. Maintain a watch on SINCGARS channel 1501."

"Do you have the latest disc? We might need to reprogram the radio."

"I burned a copy for you, I knew you'd ask. You'll have to reprogram the Spearheads so they conform to the SINCGARS."

"Ron, let's go to the shelter and get the radios reprogrammed. I ain't happy with this development. Sharon and Linda are going to have to hoe the garden; we have more important things to do."

“You’d worry if you heard a rumor that North Korea had a bomb that actually worked.”

“I’m going to take a couple of Pepcid; my stomach is giving me fits.”

“Maybe if you ate something besides beans all the time, you stomach wouldn’t bother you.”

“Beans are a good source of vegetable protein. What do you think, should we pass out radios to everyone?”

“How many do you have?”

“I have the SINCGARS in the shelter, the one at your house plus 18 of the Spearheads. We can tap into the cable coming down from the light pole and hook up your SINCGARS if you don’t mind.”

“I only mind when I’m threatened. Fine by me, we can pass out 9 and leave 9 on the charger. How long before you done reprogramming them?”

“I’m done; it doesn’t take long with the program on the computer.”

“Do you plan to keep watch all night?”

“I don’t know, I think we should but can you take half the shifts?”

“Gar, if you’re willing to stay up until midnight, I’ll take the midnight to 6am shift.”

“It’s probably foolish, Ron, but I can’t shake the feeling I have that something is wrong. Who would have enough clout to move a tank Company all the way to Little Rock? That crosses a state line; it has to be someone with federal authority. Why did I think to tell him, if he saw Hillary to smack her in the chops?”

“Are you really going to take out the microchip?”

“I was going to let Sharon do it, we’ve done it once before. They form a small capsule of skin or something around them that make it easy to find them. Sort like those things they injected into pets to ID them.”

“Same technology?”

“Probably, except it would store more information. You’ve seen the information that came up on the scanner immediately: picture, fingerprints, historical information and a 20 point DNA scan.”

“Well, they never used the DNA Scan, Gary. It was probably there just in case there was any question as to your identity. I don’t see how that could happen, what with a state ID, Internal passport and travel documents. Those travel documents didn’t mean much, not if I could get them on my computer and print off papers for anywhere you wanted to go.”

“Do you remember the day you took me to High Desert Storm to pick up my first M1A? I can remember telling you we were in serious trouble. It seems like a lifetime ago. Many of the laws the Democrats used against us were already law, signed by Dubya.”

“Did he ever come back from Paraguay?”

“I don’t know; there was nothing on the news.”

“Why do you bother listening to the news? They haven’t said anything new for two years.”

“Will you watch for a while? I’m going to ask Sharon to take this chip out.”

“Won’t that hurt?”

“No, I have some 2% Lidocaine. It numbs up good and she can get it out and butterfly it closed before it wears off.”

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It was like our country had been invaded by outsiders who were making us do things no right thinking person would ever consider. They were doing it under color of authority. That was a clear violation of the Title 42 The Public Health and Welfare, Chapter 21 Civil Rights, §1983. It provided: *Every person who, under color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage, of any State or Territory or the District of Columbia, subjects, or causes to be subjected, any citizen of the United States or other person within the jurisdiction thereof to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws, shall be liable to the party injured in an action at law, suit in equity, or other proper proceeding for redress, except that in any action brought against a judicial officer for an act or omission taken in such officer’s judicial capacity, injunctive relief shall not be granted unless a declaratory decree was violated or declaratory relief was unavailable. For the purposes of this section, any Act of Congress applicable exclusively to the District of Columbia shall be considered to be a statute of the District of Columbia.*

That’s the statute LEOs were sued under when they beat up a handcuffed suspect in an elevator. Most attorneys loved to bring an action under §1983, they went on and on and when the government finally settled, the fees were enormous. In just such a case, my younger brother collected \$64,000 in fees representing a fella two Floyd County Deputies worked over in the elevator between the basement and the 3rd floor where the jail

was located. The Deputies and the suspect were white, race had nothing to do with it; we all have Civil Rights.

In times past, the subject of National ID cards had been floated on the forum. Most said they wouldn't get them. It seemed to me a person had 2 choices: get the papers and ID chip and work underground like the French Resistance did in WW II; or, defy them and if you were lucky end up in a camp. That also suggested that if you weren't lucky or really resisted, you end up pushing up daisies.

Where was the greater good served? Would your death or being in a camp do anything to stop them? Spit in one hand and wish in the other – see which hand fills the fastest. A couple of old farts like Ron and me were perfect to undermine the government's effort, most people looked at us and laughed. I got the most, shuffling along on the days I didn't use my wheelchair. It reminds me of a saying from long ago, *it's not the size of the dog in the fight... it's the size of the fight in the dog.*

Even more in our favor was his bad heart and my diabetes. Medical tests had established that my left hand and right foot bordered on 75% or number while my right hand and left foot were better, only 30% numb. I somehow managed to fail most vision tests, except for my Texas driver's license, and I was mostly deaf in my right ear. What people didn't realize was that my vision was 20/20 in my left eye and 20/25 in my right eye; I used reading glasses but could read without them if I squinted.

Age generally gives you one thing you often lack when you're younger, patience. Perhaps that's why the military selects older people to be snipers. We distributed weapons to Linda and Sharon and took to spending time in Paris keeping an eye out for anything unusual. Plus, the armory contained a few boxes of things that more properly belonged in the hand of Engineers, C-4, Det Cord and those det cords with a blasting cap, a short length of fuze and the little cap you pulled to get the igniter going ala the M115A2 pull cord and fuse lighter. I didn't know if they were called igniters or detonators, but they worked regardless of what I called them.

We then left in the armory because as far as we knew, no one had tumbled to the shelter. I hadn't seen the Deputy who knew about it in 3 years or more. The contractor had moved on to Dallas and for all I knew, he could be dead. His explanation at the time was that Dallas-Ft. Worth would take a lot of rebuilding. We took the Jeep and spent the days in Paris and night taking turns standing guard. We weren't the only old men sitting on a bench in Paris, there were several more, some I recognized from the raid on Cox Field. Then one evening, Ron and I had a visitor. He was one of the older men we'd seen in town and asked if we had a few minute to talk.

"I suppose, say didn't I see you at Cox Field the night of the raid?"

"Could be, I was there, but I didn't see the two of you."

“We were the snipers. Ron had the Tac-50 and I had my M1A. It didn’t have the right sights; I don’t think I was very effective. He got a few though.”

“We’ve seen you in town the last few days and wondered what the two of you were up to.”

“Not much,” Ron replied, “Just getting the lay of the land.”

“Did you see anything unusual?”

“Several people from the raid at Cox. A couple of those Chevy Suburban’s with the black tinted windows. Nothing of major interest.”

“Were those your sniper rifles on the patio table?”

“Yeah, I had my other M1A with the Burris red dot sight. I don’t know if I hit anyone or not.”

“Have the two of you heard about the resistance movement?”

“Heard about the militia, haven’t heard about the resistance.”

“There are some folks in the area who are a little long in the tooth to actively participate in the militia. Doesn’t mean they don’t know how to fight, just that they aren’t spring chickens. Most of us were born in the 40s and some are boomers. Several fought in ‘Nam. Lots of skill there, it’s a shame to see it go to waste. Most people just ignore us, allowing us to do pretty much what we want. So far, all we’ve done is scout out the camp at Cox Field for the militia. Want me to go on?”

“I’m a Vietnam era vet, but I never saw combat. Ron here was 4-F because he lost his eye when he was 10. Don’t suppose that counts much in the way of bona fides, we’re both fair to middling shots. I’d like to hear more, please.”

“We’ve collected some explosives, mixed some ANFO and most have either the M1A or the AR-15. We’ve been hearing rumors that the government is coming out of hiding and is planning to reassert itself. The word is that the Dems remain in charge and plan to use the military to re-implement the pre-war controls.”

“I just had my wife dig that damned chip out. Nine-tenths of what they’re doing is unconstitutional; it will be a sad day for America if they try a comeback. I wear it in a nitro bottle on a chain around my neck, sort like a badge of honor.”

“We all have the chips removed. Tape didn’t work well to hold them in place so we came up with a substitute. It’s a rubber like plastic that can be colored to match your skin. Most of us have the chip on the back of our hand and can peel it off in a second or

two. Another thing, for operational security, we all use a nom de guerre, you can call me Ray.”

“I sometimes go by Tom. Ron sometimes answers to Ronald McDonald.”

“Would Mac be ok?”

“If we decide to join, it would,” Ron replied. “What would you want us to do?”

“I don’t suppose you have any dynamite or blasting caps?”

“We don’t know how to use explosives, but we have initiators, Det cord and some C-4. There are also 15 LAWs rockets.”

“Who has the son in the Army?”

“I do, Texas National Guard. They sent him to Little Rock for some reason. We’re waiting to hear from him on our SINCGARS radio.”

“What else do you have that you shouldn’t?”

“You ask a lot of questions Ray, why should we tell you?”

“From the looks of the stripes on the .50 caliber ammo, I’d guess it’s Raufoss, right? Those weren’t sewer pipes on the front of those rifles, so they must be suppressors.”

“We picked up a few M4s along the way. Not enough to share, but enough for us. Ray, I asked what you expected us to do. I don’t recall hearing an answer.”

“Mac, we could use a couple of snipers to cover our backs. Tom can you hit a target with the M1A at 600 yards?”

“I can with day scope. The range is the same on the MUNS.”

“What about you and your Tac-50, Mac?”

“That’s my Tac-50, Ray. My partner shoots it because it’s too heavy for me to carry. He did a good job at Cox Field at 1,000 meters. He has a couple of elephant guns.”

“What do you have?”

“An English .375 H&H magnum and a Winchester model 70 in .338 Winchester magnum.”

“Scoped?”

“Yeah, but no suppressors.”

“Do you have any single action revolvers?”

“I have 3 plus a several Marlin Cowboys. Why?”

“For appearances we wear single action revolvers, makes people think we aren’t well armed. You’ll need CCWs to open carry in town.”

I could see his point, with a single action Colt revolver you had only six chances to hit the target. After that, you’d be busy reloading and vulnerable. Ron didn’t have any single action revolvers, I figured to let him use Sharon’s with the 5½” barrel. We could cut a foot off the belt and put in new holes so it would fit his waist. I could let Ron use Sharon’s 1895 Cowboy. I planned on getting Rambo III back from Mary; just because I wasn’t Jim Bowie didn’t mean I couldn’t act the part.

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The group, which they simply called *The Resistance*, had about 35 members. Everyone had grey hair or was bald. Individually, no one would have given any member of the group a second glance, except to take note of the cowboy hats and cowboy guns. This was Texas and the standard cover was a Stetson or a Resistol. Everyone wore jeans and the slimmer fellows, western cut shirts. The rest of us usually wore long sleeved blue work shirts. We had yellow rain slickers for rainy weather and those heavy Dusters for winter weather. Our in between weather coats were the dusters with the liners removed.

There was a Bubba, a Beau and even a Chato. Tom, Mac and Ray were unusual in that they were ordinary names. There wasn’t a secret handshake and any of that foolishness, just a tip of the hat, with your off hand. On most days, you’d find us sitting on a bench in town, guarding the Eiffel Tower. We pick up pieces of conversations and try to put it altogether when we got together before supper.

I only had 18 Spearhead radios, enough to outfit half the group. I told Damon, I’d appreciate it if he looked around some; I needed another 2 dozen Spearhead radios. I’m sure that if I hadn’t specified radio, we would have ended up with 24 razor sharp large arrowheads.

About a week after he left, I got a call from Derek. Little Rock was a mess. The VIP turned out to be none other than the President and no, he hadn’t slapped her, hadn’t even gotten close. I asked about the rumors that she was re-implementing those pre-war controls and his reply was, “It’s a good thing you don’t have any semi-automatics.”

A substantial share of the handguns, rifles and shotguns in the country are semi-autos. There had to be 200,000 plus Springfield Armory M1As. There were literally millions of semi-auto handguns, not many of them Saturday Night Specials. Same song, different



day. Perhaps the theory was they could seize the guns and destroy them before the case made it to the firmly-packed Bush Supreme Court.

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“We may start this, but I don’t know that we’ll live to finish it.”

“Bull, we’re going to live forever. You just keep telling yourself that Ron, and we’ll be around long enough to maybe make a difference.”

“Right, like anyone who read your stories actually took time to prepare.”

“Some did, they were talking about additional solar panels and all sorts of things. I suppose in my own way, I was the John-the Baptist of preparations. He ran around saying, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord,” and I wrote and gave them ideas and sources for things they’d need when TSHFT. I might have been preaching to the choir, but if I just made them think, it was worth it.”

“How come it took you so long to follow your own advice?”

“The same reason as most folks, the lack of money. Look how much I spent in my little buying craze in 2006, \$3,000 and that didn’t include food, fuel or the generator.”

“I still don’t understand why you insisted on a M1A. The rifle is heavy and it’s all you can do to carry it.”

“The bullet weighs 3 times as much as the .223 bullet, hence has more knockdown power. The heavier rifle absorbs more recoil. It may not have been the idea weapon for the jungles of Vietnam, but IMHO, it was the best rifle we ever had. It was essentially the Garand rifle with many of the deficiencies of the Garand overcome. Heavy is the M82 or Tac-50 at 30 plus pounds plus ammo.

“The United States Marine Corps Designated Marksman Rifle is a semi-automatic gas-operated rifle chambered for the 7.62x51mm NATO cartridge. It is a modified and accurized variant of the M14 built and utilized solely by the USMC.

“The rifle is currently issued with M118LR 175-grain ammunition. The basic DMR (i.e. without secondary sight, magazine, sling, basic issue items, cleaning gear, suppressor, and bipod) weighs 11 pounds or less. The DMR design allows the sight mount, barrel, bolt, and other key assemblies to be repaired/replaced at the third echelon maintenance level. All DMRs are built at the Precision Weapons Shop at Quantico.

“The most notable difference between the traditional M14 pattern rifle and the DMR is the addition of an olive drab McMillan Tactical M2A fiberglass rifle stock on the DMR. This particular stock features a pistol grip and a buttstock with adjustable saddle cheek piece. The DMR also features a 22” (~56 cm) match grade stainless steel barrel, which,

in profile, is noticeably wider than the original GI-spec barrel. These barrels are supplied by two major contractors, Krieger Barrels, Inc. and Mike Rock Rifle Barrels, Inc. The rifle is also equipped with a simple rail mounting system built by GG&G Armament Arizona which allows for the attachment of any optic system compatible with the MIL-STD-1913 rail (this would include a huge variety of military riflescopes and imaging devices, most notably the TS-30.xx series dayscope and the AN/PVS-10 or AN/PVS-17 night vision riflescopes; DMRs have been used in combination with Leupold Mark 4 10x scopes, along with Unertl 10x M40 scopes). DMRs utilize the traditional M14 muzzle device; however, since deployment in Afghanistan in 2001, some DMRs have also been equipped with OPS, Inc. 2-port muzzle brake, threaded and collared to accept an OPS, Inc. 12th model muzzle brake suppressor sound attenuation device. If it's good enough for the Corps, it's good enough for me. Except for the stock and barrel, my Super Match is the same rifle as the M-21."

"It does shoot well."

"It has the 22", 1 turn in 10 inch twist, right hand Douglas Carbon Heavy Match barrel. That's the standard barrel on the M-25. The Swarovski scope is tuned to the 175 grain bullets, the M118LR."

"What do you have?"

"Black Hills 175 grain match. Black Hills .308 168 and 175 grain BTHP match ammunition became the new standard for accuracy. It was used and recommended by builders of long range precision rifles including FN, Sigarms, G.A. Precision, Robar, Armalite, DPMS, McMillan Brothers, Accuracy International, Iron Brigade Armory, Texas Brigade Armory and Landtec."

"That's not what you use in your other M1A."

"It has a different barrel twist, 1 turn in 11", right hand, six-groove chrome moly national match air gauged premium barrel. I used 147 grain South African surplus ammo in it, the Black Hills 168 grain BTHP match or the 165 grain BTSP. The primary problem with the Black Hills ammo was the cost. Plus I screwed up and didn't put a scope on it."

"Be still my heart, Gar-Bear admitted to a mistake."

"Under standard daylight conditions, the Burris is a good sight, but it's not a 1,000 yard or meter sight."

"Still..."

## Silent Running – Chapter 20

Addressing a Harvard University audience on 18Nov06, Army Gen. John Abizaid compared the rise of militant ideologies such as the force driving al Qaeda to the rise of fascism in Europe in the 1920s and 1930s and said: “If we don’t have guts enough to confront this ideology today, we’ll go through World War Three tomorrow.”

If not stopped, said the general, “extremists would gain an advantage to gain a safe haven, to develop weapons of mass destruction, to develop a national place from which to operate. And I think that the dangers associated with that are just too great to comprehend.”

He was right, but it wasn’t exactly tomorrow. It had taken a while to occur and hadn’t happened until the government, through a series of carefully orchestrated laws, had stripped us of our rights. I hate in my heart to compare what happened in the US to what had happened in Nazi Germany... If you made it to this point in my little story, you’ve read the laws. I didn’t include the USA PATRIOT Act, but it made it into some of my other tomes. Was this the government of the people, by the people and for the people that Lincoln had talked about at Gettysburg? The problem was some people discounted other people like Sarah Brady and thought the NRA was perverse. Baa, baa, sheeple.

In June 1940, Charles de Gaulle addressed the people of France from London. He called on the French people to continue the fight against the Germans, saying *Quoi qu’il arrive, la flamme de la résistance française ne doit pas s’éteindre et ne s’éteindra pas* (whatever happens, the flame of French resistance must not be extinguished and will not be extinguished). This message hit hard in occupied France but initially it was less well received in Vichy France. Regardless of what many thought of the Vichy government, the area they controlled was run by French people. However, when the Vichy government began to openly collaborate with the Germans, attitudes hardened.

The French Resistance movement is an umbrella term which covers numerous anti-German resistance movements that were based within France. There were resistance movements that took direct orders from the Special Operations Executive, the communist resistance, groups loyal to de Gaulle, regional resistance movements that wanted independence, etc. In the north, the target was simply the Germans while in the south the Vichy government was a target as well as the Germans. The first resistance movements were in the north, such as the OCM (Organisation Civile et Militaire) and by the end of 1940, six underground newspapers were being regularly printed in the north. In May 1941, the first SOE agent was dropped into northern France to assist the work of the resistance.

In addition, there were Belgian, Polish and Dutch resistance networks that cooperated to defeat the Germans. Various groups organized in both occupied France and unoccupied Vichy France. Many of them were former soldiers who had escaped from the Ger-

mans or joined the resistance when they were released from prison camps. They hid weapons in preparation to fight again.

Others were former socialists and communists who had fled the Gestapo. Many of them hid in the forested regions, especially in the unoccupied zone. They joined together to form marquis bands and began to plan attacks against the occupation forces. Some groups also had Spanish members who had fought in the Republican side of the Spanish Civil War. Even some 1,000 Germans, which had to leave Germany because they were communists, Jews or political opponents, fought for the resistance.

Because of the political complexities of France, the resistance movement got off to a difficult start. However, by June 1941, the resistance movement had become more organized and its work against the Germans increased accordingly. Two dates are important in explaining the work of the resistance movement in France.

On June 22nd 1941, all the communist groups within France joined forces to create one group. This simple act greatly increased its potency. On November 11th 1942, German forces occupied the whole of France. This meant that the whole country was occupied and the attitude of the north quickly transferred itself to the south.

The German attack on Russia – Operation Barbarossa (invasion of Russia) – led to many French communists joining the resistance movement. Politics took a back seat and the French communists gained a reputation for being aggressive and successful resistance fighters. Many French people joined as the support for Vichy quickly waned. Many in the south were angered by the compulsory labor service that had been brought in. But the treatment of the Jews was a major cause of resentment towards the Vichy government and many joined the resistance as a means of fighting against a policy that the vast majority found abhorrent.

The German occupation authorities did not hesitate to employ brutal means in order to subdue the French population. The risks were high for those involved in resistance and also for those surrounding them, since the Germans soon established practices of retaliation against innocents to punish anti-German activity.

- The German military authorities would execute guerrillas and suspected guerrillas.
- They would take hostages from among the general population to be executed in the event of resistance activity, executing several French people for a single German death. Sometimes, the hostages were taken from the same group as the presumed resistance fighters or saboteurs (e.g. railroad workers for railroad sabotage); a large number were among those accused by the Germans of being communists. Others, perhaps, were merely unlucky. The Gestapo and the SS tortured suspected guerrillas and sent them to concentration camps. Threats would also be made on the relatives of captured guerrillas; for instance, the Gestapo might threaten parents with torturing their children or sending off their daughters to be sex slaves in a military brothel.

- Occasionally, German troops would engage in massacres, such as the destruction of Oradour-sur-Glane where an entire village was razed and the population killed for resistance activities in the vicinity.

In addition, the Vichy Regime had established paramilitary groups (presumably considered part of the Vichy security forces), such as the Milice, in order to fight the Resistance. These groups, collaborating closely with the Nazis, were very brutal and did not hesitate to use methods such as torture.

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Milice sounds a whole lot like Military Police. There were many survivors in the country that would trade his/her loyalty to the Constitution for extra food or special favors. When they spoke, you could hear the baa, baa in the background. Do you think for a minute that the sheeple won't turn on the patriots? Remember, patriot is a bad word and has been since chapter 12. It denotes someone loyal to the Constitution and not the government. Probably a person with a closet full of guns and ammo, a shelter and maybe a CD V-715. They may even have drugs like, gasp, Potassium Iodate. What's the world coming to? They probably don't have any heroin, speed, coke, hash or marijuana, but a drug is a drug. Well, some of them may have a bottle of Vicodin ES or Norco; you'd better watch out for them, they're addicts.

On the other hand, the US has a lot of veterans, some of whom saw combat. These people aren't likely to lay down to the government having risked their lives to keep the country free. Better, the military taught them to shoot weapons and possibly some tactics. It seems to me there are 3 forms of resistance: open resistance as in a militia unit, closed resistance as in the case of the marquis and finally closed resistance from people on the inside, say someone like Derek.

The French and other resistance movements served to disrupt the Germans, they couldn't stop them. If a marquis was to blow up the rails, those were French rails, not German.

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Mentioning Potassium Iodate reminded me of the various products contained in radioactive fallout. A person takes KI or  $KIO_3$  to load the thyroid glands and keep the radioactive iodine out. What do you take to eliminate problems with radioactive cesium and thallium? I'm glad you asked, when I brought the subject up with my doctor, he either didn't know the answer or didn't want to tell me. The answer is to take medical grade Prussian Blue (Radiogardase) in sufficient quantity that it can combine with the cesium (Cs-137) and thallium (TI-201) and it can be eliminated in the stool. Follow the cautions, precautions, etc. Typical adult dose is 500mg TID for 30 days. You are advised to only take it when advised to do so by competent medical authority. Thing is, they probably won't have much, if any, Prussian Blue, raising the question, how do you take it? You can if you have your own supply.

Prussian Blue traps radioactive cesium and thallium (mainly Tl-201) in the intestines and keeps them from being re-absorbed by the body.

The radioactive materials then move through the intestines and are excreted (passed) in bowel movements, ergo, you'll have blue poop for 30 days. Prussian Blue reduces the biological half-life of cesium from about 110 days to about 30 days.

Prussian Blue reduces the biological half-life of thallium from about 8 days to about 3 days. Because Prussian Blue reduces the time that radioactive cesium and thallium stay in the body, it helps limit the amount of time the body is exposed to radiation.

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"In the TV show, Jericho, they didn't blow the bridge."

"Ron, that was a TV show, not real life. Ray says they're going to blow overpasses and bridges on US 82 east and west plus 271 north, 19 south and 271 southeast. That won't slow us down, but it might keep the feds out."

"Fat chance, they have helicopters."

"One of those stories, either Battle of Jakes or Pax American had someone shooting down a chopper with a .50 caliber rifle. IIRC, a sniper put a round into a chopper full of blue hats somewhere in Colorado."

"Maybe if it wasn't an attack helicopter, if it hovered and wasn't too far off. That's a lot of maybes."

"You're just saying that because you can't hit a chopper with the Tac-50 rifle."

"I'll show you, by God!"

There are various ways to motivate people including making them angry. Most likely if a chopper came in, it would land somewhere in Paris, Cox Field being a ways out of town. (I guess I should have left out the chapter recounting the history of the US ICBM program. I thought it would be interesting being we're so close to finally using the weapons. There is a point to my stories.) Ron screwed up and probably had God mad at him; one shouldn't swear an oath in the name of God. "You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name." This commandment is to never take the name of God in a vain, pointless or insincere oath.

People probably were wondering if I'd ever get to the point. It's right here --> .

Let me ask you a question, when did they begin to call it the Revolutionary War? The English no doubt called it the War of Insurrection. We also called it the American War of Independence. The revolutionary era began in 1763, when Britain defeated France in the French and Indian War and the military threat to the colonies from France ended. Britain imposed a series of taxes which the colonists thought were illegal. After protests in Boston the British sent combat troops, the Americans trained militiamen and fighting began in 1775. The climax of the Revolution came in 1776, with the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The end of the Revolutionary War is marked by the Treaty of Paris in 1783, with the recognition of the United States as an independent nation. I asked because I want to know, not to teach a lesson.

*...These are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country: but he that stands it NOW deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like Hell, is not easily conquered. Yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.*

"Who was that?"

"Thomas Paine. He was with Washington when he wrote that."

"I don't understand why Patriot has become a dirty word."

"I think it's because the term has been associated with survivalists and everyone knows what a bad rap survivalists get. I quit using the term survivalist and began to talk about being into preparedness. It has nothing to do with being a Patriot. Say, there goes another Suburban with the blacked out windows. I'll put it on the net. Heads up fellas, this is Tom, the feds are here, again."

The response was a series of clicks in the earpiece/bone conducting mike.

"This is Bubba, we got them here."

"This is Chato; they're stopping at City Hall."

"That guy takes his name from the Bronson movie, *Chato's Land*."

"Wasn't he a native American survival expert?"

"Someone commented on the Internet Movie Database that the movie appeared to be based on the Apache Kid."

"Who was he?"

"I looked him up on DesertUser.com. They said:"

“The Kid was born in the 1860s, possibly a White Mountain Apache, and his family settled at Globe, Arizona Territory, in 1868. His name, Haskay-bay-nay-natyl (“the tall man destined to come to a mysterious end”), was too much for the citizens of Globe, who called him “Kid.” The Kid learned English, worked at odd jobs in town, and was soon befriended by the famous scout, Al Sieber. In 1881, the Kid enlisted in the Indian Scouts, probably at Hackberry, Arizona Territory, and showed such aptitude for the job he was made sergeant, eventually rising to the rank of first sergeant within two years.

“The Geronimo Campaign of 1885-1886 found Kid in Mexico early in 1885 with Sieber, and when the Chief of Scouts was recalled in the fall, Kid rode with him back to San Carlos. He re-enlisted with Lt. Crawford’s call for one hundred scouts for Mexican duty, and went south in late 1885. In the Mexican town of Huasabas, on the Bavispe River, Kid nearly lost his life as the result of a drunken riot in which he had been a participant. Rather than see Kid shot by a Mexican firing squad, the Alcalde fined him twenty dollars, and the Army sent him back to San Carlos.

“It was during Kid’s eighth enlistment in the scouts, which began April 11, 1887, that he found himself in a situation that would lead to a court-martial, imprisonment, a civil trial, a new sentence, escape, and life as a fugitive. The course of the disastrous events unfolded, as did so many among the Apaches, with the brewing of tiswin, a beverage made of fermented fruit or corn. Brewing tiswin was illegal on the reservation, but with the agent, Captain Pierce, and Al Sieber both gone on business, the time seemed auspicious for a tiswin soiree. Kid had been left in charge of both the scouts and the jail, but before he and the scouts could get to the camp where the tiswin was flowing freely, two men were dead.

“One of the dead was Kid’s father, Togo-de-Chuz, and the other was the man who had killed him, Gon-Zizzie. Kid’s friends had killed Gon-Zizzie, but the blood-price did not satisfy Kid; he and his scouts went to Gon-Zizzie’s brother’s place, and there Kid killed the brother, Rip. Kid and his scouts then returned to his father’s camp, where they joined the others in drinking tiswin. The drunk lasted several days, and finally, perhaps filled with remorse and certainly hung-over, the scouts made their way back to San Carlos to face both Sieber and Captain Pierce.

“Kid and his scouts arrived at San Carlos on June 1, 1887, and found that neither Sieber nor Pierce was in a mood to deal generously with them. A crowd of Indians, some armed, had gathered to witness the punishment, and when Captain Pierce ordered the scouts to disarm themselves, Kid was the first to comply. The scouts’ firearms were laid on a table near Sieber’s tent, and Pierce ordered Kid and the others to the guardhouse to be locked up until further action could be decided upon. They were about to comply when a shot was fired from the crowd, and soon the firing became widespread.

“In the melee that followed, the disarmed Kid fled, Sieber’s tent was shredded by bullets, and a massive .45-70 bullet smashed Sieber’s left ankle, crippling him for life. It has never been determined who fired the shot that struck Sieber, but it is known that



neither Kid nor the four scouts ordered to the guardhouse with him did the shooting. They ran for cover, managed to secure horses, and with perhaps a dozen other Apaches fled for wilderness. The Army reacted swiftly, and soon two troops of the Fourth Cavalry were following the fugitives up the banks of the San Carlos River.

“Telegrams were sent from San Carlos to San Francisco, Headquarters Division of the Pacific, and to Washington, D.C., as the Territories braced for another Apache outbreak. Territorial newspapers in Arizona and New Mexico were quick to pick up the story, and the Army began to feel the heat of irate editorials. For two weeks the errant Apaches led the cavalry a good chase, until, aided by Indian scouts, Kid and his band was located high in the Rincon Mountains. The troopers surprised the Indians and captured their mounts, saddles, and equipment. Kid and his followers escaped into the rocky canyons and ravines, but faced the prospect of survival without horses while pressure from the Army increased daily.

“After some negotiation, Kid got a message to General Miles stating that if the Army would recall the cavalry he and his band would surrender. Miles called off further pursuit, and on June 22, eight of Kid’s band gave themselves up. Kid and seven others surrendered on June 25. Miles decided to try Kid and four others by a general court-martial, despite the fact that they did not, in all probability, understand the charges pending against them.

“The trial was concluded, and to no one’s surprise the men were found guilty of mutiny and desertion, and each was sentenced to death by firing squad. General Miles, upset with the verdict, ordered the court to reconsider its sentence. The court reconvened on August 3 and the convicted men were resentenced to life in prison. Miles, still not satisfied, reduced the sentence to ten years. The sentence began with the men in the San Carlos guardhouse until such time as the Army decided where to send them. The Army decided, on January 23, 1888, to send the prisoners to Alcatraz Island, California, rather than Fort Leavenworth Military Prison. Taken to Alcatraz under heavy guard, the five began what was to be a brief incarceration.

“In reviewing the trial, the Judge Advocate General’s office had become convinced that prejudice existed among the officers on the court-martial, thus precluding a fair trial. On October 13, 1888, Secretary of War William C. Endicott authorized the remission of the remainder of the sentences of the five prisoners, and by November they were back at San Carlos. Meanwhile, the Indian Rights Association, concerned that the incarceration of Apaches as federal inmates in state prisons was the result of federal usurpation of territorial jurisdiction, had sued on behalf of two incarcerated Apaches. The court agreed to the release not only of the two named in the suit, but to the release of all the Apaches held as federal prisoners in Illinois and Ohio. Eleven murderers were to be returned to San Carlos as free men, and the outrage in the Southwest was immeasurable.

“By the middle of October 1889, Sheriff Glenn Reynolds of Gila County had arrest warrants for most of the freed Apaches, and among them was Apache Kid. The trial of Kid and three others for assault to commit murder in the wounding of Al Sieber was set for

October 25, 1889. The four were found guilty, and on October 30, each was sentenced to seven years in the Territorial Prison at Yuma. On November 1, along with five other prisoners, they began what was to have been a stagecoach journey to incarceration in a prison notorious for its brutal living conditions, a prison aptly called *Hell-Hole*.

“The journey was to have been a two-day trip by stage from Globe to Casa Grande and from there by rail to Yuma. Sheriff Reynolds chose a deputy, W. A. *Hunkeydory* Holmes, as guard, and Gene Middleton, the stagecoach owner, as driver. All three were armed. Except for Kid and Hos-cal-te, considered to be the most dangerous and shackled at both wrists and ankles, the Apaches were shackled by twos, leaving each man with a free hand. A Mexican horse thief, Jesus Avott, was unshackled.

“On the second day, after a night at Riverside, the coach had to make a steep ascent at Kelvin Grade, and all prisoners but Kid and Hos-cal-te were put out to walk. As the coach made the grade and disappeared from view, the prisoners over-powered Reynolds and Holmes. Holmes died of fright, and Reynolds was killed with Holmes’ rifle. Middleton was also shot and horribly wounded with Holmes’ rifle, but survived. The prisoners unlocked their shackles with keys taken from the dead bodies of Holmes and Reynolds and disappeared into a developing snowstorm. Jesus Avott cut a horse loose and rode into nearby Florence with the grim news.

“By a strange course of events, Apache Kid was no longer an admired and honored scout, but a fugitive with a price of five thousand dollars on his head. It was widely believed that Kid used the San Simon Valley in Arizona and Skeleton Canyon in New Mexico as his avenue for travel to and from Old Mexico. Into the 1920s and 1930s, rumors circulated along the border that Kid had been seen, men had talked to him, and he was alive on a ranch in Sonora and on and on. Who knows? We need men like Chato on our side.”

“Roger, how many?”

“Four, all armed.”

“Vests?”

“Roger. They’re holding papers and really look like they’re on a mission.”

“Attitude?”

“Angry? Mad? Can’t tell.”

“I... hold on a second.”

“What are you doing home?”

“You wouldn’t believe what they wanted. They wanted us to seize sporting firearms. We left their tanks sitting and piled into two of the tractors and came home.”

“You deserted?”

“More like resisted an illegal order, Dad. We brought one M1000 trailer and it’s loaded.”

“Where did you stash it?”

“At your house. I changed in civies and joined you.”

“We have feds at City Hall; could they be looking for you?”

“Could be, if they radioed ahead. They’d probably send CID.”

“So how many of you came?”

“The entire Troop, including the Captain.”

“Were you ordered to leave?”

“It was a group decision.”

“This is Tom. Mac and I are leaving.”

“Rog, what’s up?”

“Not on the air. Come to our place.”

“Rog.”

◦

Author’s Note: This is a new approach for me so bear with me. The premise has revolved into an over the hill group of Patriots sticking it to the government via a Resistance movement loosely tailored after the French marquis. The third bad thing is happening even as I write; the government is becoming self-centered and ignoring the Supreme Law of the Land. To the extent we can, we’re going to give them an attitude adjustment. Unfortunately, they’ve given themselves the authority to do whatever they want.

◦

“How much does that trailer hold?”

“Up to 140 tons, Dad. It’s not loaded that heavy, not with the things we were able to get. I’m familiar with the things you like and we have a bit of everything. We raided the Engineering Company for explosives, went through a forward supply base and got weapons, ammo, and most of the things you like to use in your stories.”

“How would you know what weapons I like?”

“I skimmed several of those stories. You’re partial to mines, grenades, LAW rockets, medium and heavy machineguns and the Mk19. You’d rather starve than eat MREs and your favorite rifle is the M14 and its derivatives. Moreover, you like your weapons suppressed and lean towards the Surefire Suppressor because of their long life. We have all of that and more.”

“Which rifle?”

“It seems you prefer the A2 as a backup weapon.”

“Handgun?”

“That PT1911 .45 comes as close to your perfect weapon as anything I could find.”

“I like the H&H USP Tactical with suppressor.”

“Sorry, we couldn’t get those, would you settle for a few MP5SD1?”

“I suppose you could twist my arm. Where is everything, the trailer is empty?”

“It’s standing room only in the shelter.”

“I don’t suppose you got us any fuel?”

“A double bottomed commercial rig of JP-8.”

“So you’re wanted not only for desertion but grand theft?”

“No, at the moment we’re classified as AWOL.”

“Sniper rifles?”

“Four. The M-24SWS built by Remington. We have a few thousand rounds of M118LR.”

“Any Raufoss?”

“Yes, 2,400 rounds. I thought about it and the barrel life of a Tac-50 is probably 5,000 rounds. With the ammo you have, you now have more ammo than barrel life.”

## Silent Running – Chapter 21

Do you have any idea how much ordinance you can stack on a HETS? The weight limit is 140 tons, tanks are heavy. They ditched the M1000 and M1070 up near Cox Field. Derek said as soon as they had an inventory, they'd pass out equipment to the Resistance. I explained that for appearances sake, we were armed with traditional weapons ala cowboy guns. I also mentioned I'd borrowed Sharon's 1895 Cowboy so Ron could have a rifle. He asked if he could join the Resistance and I told him in 30 years when he had grey hair.

We also discussed in a little more detail his unit's desertion. He thought that, considering the number of units leaving, they probably wouldn't come looking. It appeared that the feds at City Hall was unrelated to their departure. His Troop had discussed it on the way back and thought they might become a unit within the Paris Militia. I pointed out they would have been more effective if they brought their tanks. He thought not, suggesting this would be a 4<sup>th</sup> generation war.

The militia tried to merge the Resistance into their group and what can only be described as a cat fight broke out. We were old and not able to keep up with the young people. We also had one quality they lacked, patience. We were far better suited for sitting in town guarding the Eiffel Tower with our ears open. Besides, the militia wasn't well organized, containing several factions or cliques. We didn't have Preacher or Dane to bring order to that group.

Ron and I saw to it that the Resistance had first dibs on the arms and munitions. Resistance members came to the shelter and took what they could use. The remainder was slowly doled out to the militia with Derek's Troop at the top of the pecking order. The Troop Commander, a Captain, tried to bring some organization to the militia, and failed. The militia members, no doubt Patriots to the core, seemed to think the militia was some sort of Democracy and they had to vote on everything.

"They were better organized when they attacked Cox Field."

"I'd have to agree with that Ron, they had a single purpose. Now they have half a dozen cliques and each has a different agenda."

"I, for one, am glad we're not part of that. Now this Resistance is more suited to our disposition. It would appear that we're pretty good at gathering intelligence. Folks think we're a bunch of old men living a second childhood. I doubt most of them ever heard that WW II slogan, Loose Lips Sink Ships."

"Hey, I read a Blog on the subject:"

During World War II, when there was less division in this country, we understood the price of indiscretion. During this war, fought by our Greatest Generation, the public not only shared the worries of our armed forces, but shared their devotion to duty and coun-

try. During the Second World War, possibly the most remembered saying of the day was “Loose Lips Sink Ships”. For those who might be too young to remember that we once guided our nations tongue, knowing that such guidance was a personal responsibility to the protection of our troops, here is a reproduction of the Defense Department’s guidance on written and spoken communication for those at, and returning from, The Front:

- “1. Don’t write military information of Army units – their location, strength, matériel, or equipment.
2. Don’t write of military installations.
3. Don’t write of transportation facilities.
4. Don’t write of convoys, their routes, ports (including ports of embarkation and disembarkation), time en route, naval protection, or war incidents occurring en route.
5. Don’t disclose movements of ships, naval or merchant, troops, or aircraft.
6. Don’t mention plans and forecasts or orders for future operations, whether known or just your guess.
7. Don’t write about the effect of enemy operations.
8. Don’t tell of any casualty until released by proper authority (The Adjutant General) and then only by using the full name of the casualty.
9. Don’t attempt to formulate or use a code system, cipher, or shorthand, or any other means to conceal the true meaning of your letter. Violations of this regulation will result in severe punishment.
10. Don’t give your location in any way except as authorized by proper authority. Be sure nothing you write about discloses a more specific location than the one authorized.

**SILENCE MEANS SECURITY** – If violation of protective measures is serious within written communications it is disastrous in conversations. Protect your conversation as you do your letters, and be even more careful. A harmful letter can be nullified by censorship; loose talk is direct delivery to the enemy.

If you come home during war your lips must remain sealed and your written hand must be guided by self-imposed censorship. This takes guts. Have you got them or do you want your buddies and your country to pay the price for your showing off. You’ve faced the battle front; it’s little enough to ask you to face this ‘home front.’ “

Those who were a part of the Greatest Generation will remember Tokyo Rose, the voice of Imperial Japan. Tokyo Rose broadcast daily the news of deprivation and suffering at

home. Rosie would tell our troops how bad things were for the families of soldiers abroad. Tokyo Rose reminded our troops each and every day how much they were missed at home, reminded our troops each and every day of the death of their comrades, and the dreadful cost in life and treasure that war with Japan brought.

Today, each day the broadcast media focuses national attention “like a laser beam” on the death of every soldier, the loss of every father, son, daughter or mother of this land. Every single day the world is informed of the location of our troops, their troop strength, the beginning of every single operation. Even before soldiers in the field have filed their after-action report, the news has told the world at large of the success or failure of the operation, where it took place, and how many American soldiers fell, and what enemy assets were destroyed.

This kind of information is called “open source intelligence”. And with the so-called “openness” of modern American society, one can discover more about American troop disposition, strength and morale from the American press than the Soviet Union could have determined throughout the Cold War by the best of tradecraft.

There are members of Congress that believe that the way to support our troops is to condemn the mission, condemn their leadership, criticize their preparedness, criticize the effect of their labors, and investigate their every action. These same politicians wail and moan that this war is “Bush’s quagmire, this generation’s Viet Nam”. They believe that from a comfortable, clean, air-conditioned office in Washington, they are better able to manage the war than the footsore, battle weary soldiers and leaders in the theater of action. Frankly, that would be the way that Lyndon Johnson fought the Viet Nam war, by remote control, from Washington. These politicians claim to “support our troops”, and believe that by claiming the mantle of “patriotism” they are above reproach.

“Sounds to me like that guy didn’t like reporters.”

“Ronald, the only people that like reporters are their children, they’re too young to know better. You don’t find many reporters like Jennie Lerner anymore (the reporter in Deep Impact – Téa Leoni). They all claim the people have a right to know and if it hurts the country, it’s the administration’s fault.”

o

Senator John Kerry  
304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

We are still laughing over here in Iraq at your joke about the troops being dumb. We do recognize that you are a lot smarter than we are because you were able to get out of

combat in three months. This is why we are seeking your advice. Please give us guidance.

- 1.) Where is the least painful area on the body to inflict a wound?
- 2.) Does it have to bleed or will a scratch do?
- 3.) Where do you get the forms to fill out recommending yourself for a Purple Heart?
- 4.) Do you need a witness? If so, how much does that cost?
- 5.) Are three Purple Hearts still good for a trip home?
- 6.) What is a realistic period of time in which to acquire these wounds? Less than three months sounds a little suspicious even to us.

Thanks for your help and keep the jokes coming.

Just a dumb G.I.

o

“I agree. Of course, if reporters don’t leak it, it will just be a Congressional Aide. Hey there’s that Suburban again.”

“Don’t say anything; see if the others pick it up.”

“This is Ray, Suburban at 3:00. Tom, you awake?”

“We were wondering who would notice it first. Tom out.”

“This is Chato, they’re at City Hall, again.”

“Chato, Tom. Got a spud with you?”

“Tom, Chato. Why?”

“Stick it up their exhaust pipe.”

“Roger, I’ll get one.”

When the men came out, the Suburban wouldn’t start, too much back pressure. They fooled around with it for a while and finally called a tow truck. An exhaust brake uses a vacuum operated butterfly in the exhaust stream, which acts like a potato up the exhaust pipe to build backpressure against the engine. This backpressure produces considerable braking power.

How many times do I have to tell you? Don’t believe anything you see in the movies or on TV. Movies and TV shows are written by Hollywood scriptwriters. For scriptwriters, reality is basically a plot device.



Stuffing a potato or anything short of a hand grenade up a car's tailpipe won't make it blow up. But it will keep the car from running. If exhaust gases can't escape, the engine can't "breathe," so it dies.

Think about it. When a car's cylinders move up and down, they pull fuel and air in and push exhaust gases out. If the tailpipe is blocked, the exhaust can't go anywhere and stays put in the cylinders, preventing fresh stuff from entering. No fresh stuff = no combustion = no transportation.

It also means no unintended explosions, which maybe is why street gangs haven't picked up on it. Thank God.

They towed the Suburban to a repair shop and the frustrated agents were milling around and talking on satellite phones. Chato must have stuck the spud way up the exhaust, the mechanic missed it. However, he quickly diagnosed the problem and used a torch to cut the exhaust pipe, eliminating the back pressure and allowing the engine to start. He got a replacement tailpipe from the muffler shop and installed it. Elapsed time, 2 hours, cost, \$250; and no, he didn't take government credit cards.

"I'll bet they're pissed."

"This is Mac, feds leaving town, pedal to the metal."

"This is Ray, we shoulda blown those bridges. Which way did they go?"

"This is Tom, southeast on 271."

"Ain't nothin that way until they get to Tyler. Call it a day and meet up at Tom's at the usual time."

"Fellas, we got to blow those bridges. Tom, how's our supply of explosives?"

"If someone knows how to use them, probably more than enough. That's about all there is in the armory."

"Chato, you're our explosives expert, do we have enough to close the highways?"

"Six times over, Ray. It will take 2-3 nights to get them all in place. We could leave a man at each location to detonate them on command."

"Will they be able to replace them easily?"

"The military would have to bring in bridging equipment to do that. It depends on how important restoring the highways is. A couple of days if they're important and maybe never if they're not."

“If we blow them, can we still get around?”

“Have to use back roads. Off hand, I’d say yes. Eventually, the government can use choppers and plot a path around them too.”

“Tom, give Chato whatever he needs, we have to bring those bridges down. Yeah Bubba, what is it?”

“The militia is gonna be pissed if we don’t check with them first.”

“The militia? Hell, except for the attack on Cox Field, they haven’t done anything. Don’t worry about the militia.”

o

Chato spent 3 nights planting the explosives. On Thursday morning when he’d finished up, he showed up at my door.

“Tom, you have the tallest antenna, can you give the word?”

“You do it, Chato, use my radio.”

“This is Chato. It’s time. On my mark. Mark, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.”

The only explosion we could hear from our place was the one on route 19. Chato would have to wait until later in the day when all the men reported in to learn if all the bridges were down. I went back to bed; it wasn’t time to get up yet.

“Chato came by around oh-dark-thirty and used my radio to give the command to blow the bridges.”

“Are they down?”

“Won’t know until we get to Paris.”

We drove into town and got set up on our bench.

“This is Tom, any word?”

“This Ray, the operations were successful, but all the patients died.”

That evening, we all got together with local maps to plot courses around all the downed bridges. Someone suggested we could go one step further using farming equipment like self-propelled combines, to block some of the roads. It was by no means foolproof, but it could slow the feds down more if they decided to come back. Something was up, two

days later the feds had US 82 open both ways. That said a lot, but it didn't tell us what was going on. We continued our 'patrols' sitting on the benches in town.

"This is Chato. I just spoke with a Deputy and the feds have arrests warrants for that entire tank Troop."

"This is Tom, what charge?"

"Desertion in the face of the enemy."

"Ron, we're 'the enemy'. Derek said they just refused to seize sporting arms. What do you think the chances are we could get close enough to Broom Hillary if we went to Little Rock?"

"Close enough to do what?"

"Shoot the witch."

"Gar-Bear, we'd only get one shot and it would be a long one, maybe 2,000 meters. Wouldn't matter if we hit her or missed, the Secret Service would be on us like stink on chit. The government would get us and take your Tac-50 and your Super Match."

"It was just a thought. No way we could get away with it? I killed about 24 President's in my stories and never got caught."

"Went Hollywood? Shame on you. Life's a whole lot different than Hollywood. About the only way we'd have to get away with something like that would be to shoot down a helicopter that she was in. Remember what I told you, it would have to be hovering and I'd have to get damned lucky."

"You know what we need?"

"What?"

"A Stinger missile."

"Where are you going to get one of those?"

"DAMON!"

"What?"

"I need 2 Stinger missiles."

"Dad, the people in Hell need ice water, I'll have to serve them first."

“Would it help if I could find out where Stinger missiles are stored?”

“Oh, that’s different. Aaron will help, will 2 be enough?”

“Get all that you can get. If I can locate an Avenger, it will have 8 missiles and possibly reloads. Ron and I want to go hunting.”

“Hunting for what?”

“Critters.”

“Do you suppose that if we get 25 without being caught, we’ll get an Oscar?”

“You really worry me at times, Gar-Bear.”

“Ronald, you worry too much. First, we have to get the missiles. Second, we have to figure out how to fire them. Third, we have to figure out how to aim them. By the time we get it all figured out, they’ll probably be past their shelf life.”

A Vietnam era vet couldn’t really help us; the Stinger wasn’t introduced until 1983 when it was first used in combat in Grenada. We then provided Stinger missiles to the mujahedeen and the system proved very effective against first line Soviet combat aircraft in Afghanistan. According to a comprehensive 1999 study, some of the estimated 900 to 1,200 Stingers delivered to Afghanistan in the 1980s were diverted while en route through Pakistan. Use of the Stinger is covered by Army FM 44-18. The DOD, in a cost cutting effort, eliminated spending for the RCM-block II missiles and upgraded the RCM-block I missiles to block II. We had over 10,000 in inventory. I told Damon to be sure and get a copy of the FM when he got the missiles.

o

“How’d you make out?”

“With the information I got from Derek, I narrowed it down to a couple of places. We were lucky; we found some the first place we looked. I’m glad I didn’t take that chip out; we got stopped and scanned several times, but those forged travel documents worked. Once they saw the travel permit good was statewide, they treated us like Royalty.”

“Did they explain that?”

“I overheard one man to another, FEMA.”

“Then FEMA employees have statewide papers?”

“Apparently.”

“You didn’t have to show a FEMA ID?”

“Uh-uh, the moment they saw the travel orders I was the King of England.”

It was the crack in the china; the government had just lost and didn’t even know it. We had a record of doing that, once in Vietnam and once in Iraq. We didn’t lose in Afghanistan because NATO took over and lost it for us. That reminds me of a saying I learned in college, *in all the towns and all the cities, there are no statues to Committees*. Hillary was listening to her advisers, just like Lyndon did. Who had kicked our butt in Vietnam and Iraq? I-n-s-u-r-g-e-n-t-s! Who kicked Israel’s butt? I-n-s-u-r-g-e-n-t-s! What’s another name for The Resistance? T-h-e I-n-s-u-r-g-e-n-t-s!

I never drink coffee from a cracked cup, call me crazy. At the very least, there’s germs in that crack and at the worst, the cup will break when you put coffee in it. I’m better, when I was a kid; I had to have a clean glass to get a drink of water.

This story is over except for the blood and gore. I generally leave that to others to tell about, I’m a preparedness freak. Unfortunately, that would leave the reader hanging, wondering what happen to Hillary and those Stinger missiles. When the Stinger was first ready for the field, they found it would only hit 30% of the targets instead of the 60% they expected. They got a roll of duct tape... anyway they fixed them. The missiles Damon got were the 4th generation missile, the RCM-block II. They didn’t miss much, especially if you had a full dial tone before you launched it.

With the bridges blown and many of the side roads blocked, the feds were in a pickle. The solution this time wasn’t a massive bombing raid, they used the railroad. Paris has two lines, one runs east-west and the other north-south. We hadn’t figured on anyone with FEMA being old enough to have seen *The Wild Bunch* starring William Holden. An interesting fact about the movie was that they fired more blanks making the film than real bullets were fired in the Mexican Revolution (90,000).

“Railroads use bridges too, Tom. We’ll just get Chato to blow those up, too.”

“Fine, but I wouldn’t be a bit surprised if we don’t end up seeing the 101st Air Cav.”

“You have mines, right? We could mine Cox Field.”

“All we have are M-18 Claymores. The minute one of those goes off, they’ll start looking for the trip wires. I wish we had some M16 Bouncing Betties. I couldn’t get any because under current policy the M16 mine is only used on the Korean peninsula.”

“Don’t you use a trip wire with those?” Ron asked.

“You can, you don’t have to.”

“I thought landmines were outlawed.”

“That’s why they were developing self-disarming mines. The M16s are left over from Vietnam, right Ray?”

“Nasty piece of work, that one. The ones I hated were the booby traps made by putting a grenade in a can and having it pulled out with a trip wire.”

“Sharon’s brother did 3 tours. He got hurt real bad with one of those punji stick traps. Damned near lost his leg.”

“We had good teachers in Charlie; kids these days don’t have any idea what it was like. Reckon we’re going to have to teach ‘em.”

“Remember, we want casualties, not necessarily fatalities. Takes 3-4 men to help one injured person.”

“I’ll get Chato and we’ll get the explosives.”

Ray was bound and determined to eliminate every way into Paris. Chato had blown the replacement bridges and they had more up in 3-4 days. I figured they had to bring the replacements further. The question became who has more? Do we have more explosives than they have bridges? The reason they wanted to get into Paris was to search for explosives. We’d been careful and few knew of the shelter.

The answer to the question may be found if you’ve seen *Force 10 from Navarone*. It’s not the quantity of explosives you use, it’s how you use them. Want to knock down a bridge? Blow up a dam using stolen TNT from German mines and the rush of water will take down the bridge. The bad guy in that movie also played Jaws in the James Bond movies (Richard Kiel).

People who have the skills to take down a highway bridge are more than qualified to take down a railroad bridge. Chato brought the bridges down just like SSgt. Dusty Miller brought down the dam and FEMA was stumped. The AVLB is an organic engineer asset that travels with maneuvering armored and mechanized infantry formations and can quickly gap up to 15 meters for 70 MLC vehicles. The assault launcher can launch the bridge without exposing bridge personnel to enemy fire and can retrieve the bridge from either end. The Wolverine will eventually replace the AVLB. The Wolverine will consist of an M1 series Abrams tank chassis modified to transport, launch, and retrieve a MLC 70 bridge. The bridge will be capable of spanning at least a 24-meter gap. The problem with the MLC 70 bridge is that it doesn’t have rails.

That could cause major problems.

## Silent Running – Chapter 22

(Note: I wrote this on Thanksgiving. On 12/3/06 there was an interesting program about volcanoes on the History Channel.)

The study by a team of economists and maritime security experts notes that the nation's 361 seaports together handle 40 percent of US international trade. The report says an attack on a major port could cause serious disruptions through the US economy.

“There is an over-emphasis on prevention of an attack at a port, and perhaps not enough emphasis on what happens in response to an attack on the port,” said Jon Haveman, a contributing author and co-editor of the report. He says a key theme emerges in the study of port security.

The report says recovery plans should focus on reducing economic panic and restoring supply chains. Haveman says the government needs better ways to prioritize shipments to get essential goods moving.

Essential shipments might include car parts heading for San Francisco, where a major auto plant – a joint venture between General Motors and Toyota – produces hundreds of thousands of vehicles a year.

The report says if terrorists were to blow up highway and rail bridges at the joint ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, the attack could eliminate half of the ports' capacity and lead to an economic loss of \$45 billion. Haveman calls that a serious toll, but says it is one that the US economy can handle.

He says advance planning is difficult. At the Los Angeles-Long Beach port, it involves coordinating 15 separate government agencies. But he says advance planning is essential.

“That makes fundamental sense in its own right, and it also makes sense as a deterrent, because if we can eliminate the economic consequences of an attack or substantially reduce them, then we're less likely to have the attack in the first place,” he said.

He says the goal of terrorists is to disrupt the economy, and that preparations to limit the impact of an attack will decrease the risk of having one.

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Now you should see what I mean. Taking out highway bridges doesn't have nearly the impact of taking out a rail bridge (unless it's in Yugoslavia). The road and railroads were the only avenues of transportation and while it might seem that we were cutting off our noses to spite our face, the truth was, it made it nearly impossible for the feds to confiscate food and transport it elsewhere. I had resumed my previous role of monitoring radios in the shelter with Ron covering my six.

There were suggestions and even a few outright statements indicating Paris wasn't the only community denying food to the feds. While the Resistance gathered information, the militia used it and FEMA trucks seemed to be very accident prone. We'd thought we'd have to do it ourselves, but that Captain and his troopers finally gained control of the militia and began to carry out missions.

Several military commanders refused to accept orders that put them in direct conflict with the citizenry. Perhaps in a desperate effort to draw support, the administration announced on national radio that the President planned to tour the country, starting with the major cities.

"She going for her voting base, trying to calm down the liberals," Ron suggested.

"If there are any of them left, partner, she's 3 years late and broke besides. When was the last time you paid taxes? Her only hope would be to reconstitute Congress and move us back to the gold standard. Worse, she using FEMA and hired contractors to manage the recovery. Chato got those railroad bridges down; they won't be up for a while. Haven't seen many black Suburban's recently, have you?"

"Let's be fair here, Gar-Bear, she no more than took office and we had those terrorist attacks. Before we could clean up from those, TSHTF."

"Yeah, right. Dubya took office on 1/20 and 9/11 happened less than 9 months later. The only difference I can see is the scale. Worse, in 2009, the new Democratic Congress made the change to the Insurrection Act permanent. Our Founding Fathers' must be turning over in their graves."

"It wasn't a bad run, though."

"Partner it's not over yet, I've been listening to the radio net. There are some who aren't taking this lying down. I've heard of several new organizations, The New Sons of Liberty, The Sons of Dixie and even a reconstituted Michigan Militia. There's an outfit from San Antonio that calls themselves' Travis's Army. The Resistance is smaller, but we're doing our part."

"Is she coming here?"

"To Paris? Man I doubt it. She might go to Dallas, but there's no reason for her to come here."

"I guess I'd better fire up my computer and print up travel permits."

"I didn't figure you'd want any part of that."



“As old as we are, what difference does it make? Did you get the Stringer missile figured out?”

“I think so; we’ve been able to disable the IFF accessory.”

“I was wondering about that. As I understood it, they were designed to not shoot down our planes.”

“It’s a separate unit that plugs into the launcher. Damon figured out a work around. It doesn’t care if you’re a friend or foe; it locks on and blows you outta the sky.”

“How are we gonna know which plane she’s on?”

“By the call sign and monitoring Air Traffic Control. We’ll only get one chance; we’d better use 2 missiles.”

“I wonder if they’ll let us have home visits after 25 years?”

“I don’t want any false bravado here, but if we get caught, I won’t let them take me alive.”

“When is she coming?”

“According to the radio, in about 3 weeks.”

o

“They land into the wind, so we’ll get on that end of the runway. Maybe 2 miles out, the plane will be low and well within range.”

“Are you going to be able to hold that, it’s pretty heavy?”

“You’re wearing your latex gloves, right?”

“Answer my question.”

“I’ve got it; or maybe it’s got me. Yeah I’m ok, have you been monitoring ATC?”

“Air Force One is on Final.”

“Get ready, here it comes.”

“I got tone, firing.”

“Me, too. Let’s get the hell outta here Ronald.”

“Hit! It’s going down.”

“I said let’s go. After you’ve killed a couple of dozen Presidents’ it seems to lose its glow.”

Tim McVeigh was able to plant the bomb and escape, it’s not as hard as you think. It’s the staying uncaught that’s hard. We hadn’t left a clue, just two empty missile launchers. If there were any fingerprints on them, they sure weren’t ours. We zipped up the road in the Jeep, bound for Paris. We made it home in less than 2 hours.

“Where have you been?”

“Ron and I went for a ride. We wanted to see if we could trade for more ammo.”

“Did you have your radio on?”

“No, what’s up?”

“The President was coming into Dallas and terrorists shot down the plane.”

“That’s strange; we haven’t had a terrorist event since before the war. Was anybody hurt?”

“The plane plowed into a field short of the runway and burned. No survivors.”

“So she’s dead?”

“No. she was the backseat in one of the F/A-18s they were using as fighter escort.”

“Who was on the plane that got shot down?”

“Reporters.”

Close, but no cigar. Second best just isn’t the same.

“What’s her next stop?”

“Colorado Springs. They said she’s returning to Cheyenne Mountain.”

“Well, did they catch the terrorists?”

“Apparently, they don’t have a clue.”

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A person can't run a country from a hole in the ground/mountain. The insurrection slowly grew until it had spread to every state but New York and California. Libertarians and Populists replaced Republicans and Democrats on the local, and later, state levels.

Populism is a political philosophy or rhetorical style that holds that the common person's interests are oppressed or hindered by the elite in society, and that the instruments of the state need to be grasped from this self-serving elite and used for the benefit and advancement of the people as a whole. Hence a populist is one who is perceived to craft his or her rhetoric as appeals to the economic, social, and common sense concerns of average people. Most scholarship on populism since 1980 has discussed it as a rhetorical style that can be used to promote a variety of political ideologies. Leaders of populist movements in recent decades have claimed to have been on both the left and the right (Canovan, Kazin, Betz) of the political spectrum, while some populists claim to be neither "left wing," "centrist" nor "right wing."

Libertarianism is a political philosophy advocating that individuals should be free to do whatever they wish with their person or property, as long as they do not infringe on the same liberty of others. There are two types of libertarians. One type holds as a fundamental maxim that all human interaction should be voluntary and consensual. They maintain that the initiation of force against another person or his property, with "force" meaning the use of physical force, the threat of it, or the commission of fraud against someone who has not initiated physical force, threat, or fraud, is a violation of that principle (many of these are individual anarchists or anarcho-capitalists).

The other type comes from a consequentialist or utilitarian standpoint. Instead of having moral prohibitions against initiation of force, these support a limited government that engages in the minimum amount of initiatory force (such as levying taxes to provide some public goods such as defense and roads, as well as some minimal regulation), because they believe it to be necessary to ensure maximum individual freedom (these are minarchists). Libertarians do not oppose force used in response to initiatory aggressions such as violence, fraud or trespassing. Libertarians favor an ethic of self-responsibility and strongly oppose the welfare state, because they believe forcing someone to provide aid to others is ethically wrong, ultimately counter-productive, or both. Libertarians also strongly oppose conscription because they believe no one should be forced to fight a war they don't support (and, ideally, many would like it to be left to individual decision as to which war, if any, to fund).

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The NTSB issued a report saying the crash of Air Force One was occasioned by catastrophic engine failure. The report made no statement with regard to the cause of the engine failure. I can only assume that they didn't want to embarrass the FBI like had happened with TWA Flight 800. In so doing, Ron and I were denied our moment of glory. Beats the hell out of a prison cell.

Elections were finally held in 2014 and a 3rd party, the Libertarians took the White House and the Populists took Congress. Good, right? Bzzz. The Libertarians and Populists may sound alike, but they're as different as day and night. We didn't vote in the elections, this wasn't the same country it had been when we were born in the early 1940s. Besides, I'd sworn I never vote Libertarian. However, both parties seem to favor less government instead of more – it's called Laissez Faire, ergo, hands off by the government.

For my part, I had always wanted to outlive my father, even if it were only for a single day. He made it to 78½. As for Ron's part, I'm convinced that he worried himself to death over his health concerns. Linda always said that he wasn't half as sick as he thought he was. By the time I got to know him, Ron was pretty much a law and order sort of guy. Initially, he was opposed to those 30-round magazines I got him, citing the fact that they were illegal. Strangely, that didn't keep him from taking them, but at the time, I never knew if he took them out of the boxes they came in.

For years I'd wanted to live in California. Starting with Prop 13, it became Kalifornia. Then a couple of things happened, the school shooting in Stockton and the murder of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk. All of a sudden, the stores selling assault weapons in Los Angeles began to disappear. The multiple murders at Stockton received national news coverage and spurred calls for regulation of semi-automatic weapons. In Kalifornia, measures were taken to first define and then ban assault weapons, resulting in the Roberti-Roos Assault Weapons Act.

On the Federal level, Congress struggled with a way to ban weapons like Purdy's military-style semi-automatic rifle without also including semi-automatic hunting rifles. In the end, Congress defined "assault weapons" as semi-automatic weapons with certain military-style secondary features such as flashhiders, bayonet lugs, and pistol grips. These were banned in the Federal assault weapons ban, enacted in 1994, which expired in 2004. President George H. W. Bush signed an executive order banning importation of assault weapons in 1989. President Bill Clinton signed another executive order in 1994 which banned importation of most firearms and ammunition from China.

To punctuate the complexity of the issue, neither California's Roberti-Roos Assault Weapons Act nor the Federal Assault Weapons Ban would have prevented Purdy from legally purchasing the weapon he used to commit his crime.

The first school massacre occurred in Michigan. The Bath School disaster was a series of bombings in Bath Township, Michigan, on 18May27, which killed 45 people and injured 58. Most of the victims were children in second to sixth grades attending the Bath Consolidated School. The bombings constituted the deadliest act of mass murder in a school in US history, claiming more than three times as many victims as the Columbine High School massacre. The perpetrator was school board member Andrew Kehoe, who was upset by a property tax that had been levied to fund the construction of the school building. He blamed the additional tax for financial hardships which led to foreclosure

proceedings against his farm. These events apparently provoked Kehoe to plan his attack.

On the morning of 18 May, Kehoe first killed his wife and then set his farm buildings on fire. As fire fighters arrived at the farm, an explosion devastated the north wing of the school building, killing many of the people inside. Kehoe used a detonator to ignite dynamite and hundreds of pounds of pyrotol which he had secretly planted inside the school over the course of many months. As rescuers started gathering at the school, Kehoe drove up, stopped, and detonated a bomb inside his shrapnel-filled vehicle, killing himself and the school superintendent and killing and injuring several others. During the rescue efforts, searchers discovered an additional 500 pounds of unexploded dynamite and pyrotol planted throughout the basement of the school's south wing. Why didn't that lead to a dynamite ban? Probably because people could still think for themselves in 1927.

Between the Bath Massacre and the Stockton Massacre, there were at least seven additional massacres, including the Texas Tower. The first occurred in 1959, 32 years after Bath. I've always wonder how the guns fired themselves. China has had its own string of school massacres, but they haven't banned knives.

In the US, it's supposed to be harder to buy fertilizer because of ANFO bombs. You remember when the ABC network bought hundreds of pounds of fertilizer and stored it in Washington to make a point back in September of '06? With virtually no questions asked, an undercover ABC News team was able to purchase a half ton of one of the world's most dangerous bomb-making materials and move it into a storage shed only a few miles from the White House and the US Capitol.

Despite its use in the bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building, there are still no federal laws restricting the purchase of ammonium nitrate, a chemical fertilizer, widely sold at farm supply stores.

The ABC News undercover team made the purchases, in cash, at farm supply stores in North Carolina and Virginia and were never once asked for any valid ID.

Legislation requiring buyers of ammonium nitrate to be registered by the federal government have been blocked by the agricultural industry, according to the Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, Congressman Pete King (R-NY).

The results of the ABC News investigation are "a wake-up call that the American people and the Congress needs," King said. A law requiring sellers to record purchases has passed King's committee and is awaiting a vote by the full House.

For some reason, Chato preferred plastique. The 1995-1996 USMC Ground Ammunition War Material Requirements (WMR) Study resulted in a 51% increase to the Combat Requirement for Demolition Kits, M183, (DoD Identification Code (DODIC) M757). The Demolition charge M183 is used primarily in breaching obstacles or demolition of large

structures where large charges are required (Satchel Charge). The charge assembly M183 consists of 16 block demolition charges M112, four priming assemblies and carrying case M85. Each Priming assembly consists of a five-foot length of detonating cord assembled with two detonating cord clips and capped at each end with a booster. The components of the assembly are issued in the carrying case. The demolition charge M112 is a rectangular block of Composition C-4 approximately 2 inches by 1.5 inches and 11 inches long, weighing 1.25 Lbs. When the charge is detonated, the explosive is converted into compressed gas. The gas exerts pressure in the form of a shock wave, which demolishes the target by cutting, breaching, or cratering.

However, the Demolition Munition, Concrete Penetrating, HE: M150, also known as the Penetrating Augmented Munition (PAM) is a lightweight, man portable demolition device being developed for the Special Operations Forces. A compact 33 inches long and weighing approximately 42 lbs. PAM can be emplaced by a single person to defeat reinforced concrete bridge piers, walls, and abutments. The munition can be carried in a rucksack or strapped to load-bearing equipment without interfering with the soldier's ability to walk, climb, or rappel. In addition, it can be initiated by any standard military detonation device.

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I finally managed to clean all that crap out of our shelter so if TSHTF again, we could use it. I hate clutter and it got so a person could only walk through the shelter sideways. With a degree of normalcy restored, I tried to accomplish 2 things: teach Sharon how to use her own computer; and, explain the function of the vast array of survival equipment I had accumulated. The generator would handle itself if we lost power and one of the boys could service it with the accumulated supplies.

I kept my little Nazi .32 auto and the loaded M1A. The remainder of the guns were divided up among the kids. (Derek got the chainsaw.) The feds, much to my surprise, never found that shelter, no matter how much they looked. Of course, that ended in '15 with the change in government.

In the end, we made it through another one, thanks in great part to being prepared. If you aren't prepared for whatever is coming, today would be a good time to start.

Politically, I'd probably die a Republican but it didn't mean I'd never vote for a good Democratic candidate. I was really impressed with Obama when he was on Fox news. Might need more seasoning before they run him. My crystal ball tells me not to count out McCain as a one term President in '08, but it's just a glass ball. If that happened, I think Obama would sweep the '12 election, but what do I know? Getting an education doesn't automatically make a person liberal. It does sometimes aid with understanding other people. I think the radical Muslims are out to get us and God help us if they get WMDs.

Was I dreaming? Check this out:

Dear Friend,

Blackwater is bidding on the contract NSW/NSO solicitation N00140-07-R-0001. We are looking for professional, motivated, in shape, and enthusiastic individuals to meet the required qualifications listed below.

#### Personnel Qualifications

1. Mentors will have served at least 8 years in the SEAL, Diver or Navy Special Operations Communities.
2. Mentors will maintain an exemplary level of physical fitness and professional demeanor.
3. Mentors will maintain the personnel, organization, and administrative control needed to ensure that the work is done properly and on time.
4. The work history of each contractor employee must contain experience directly related to the task and functions needed to perform under this contract.
5. The Government reserves the right, at any time, to request work histories on any contractor or employee.

Every NRD shall have one (1) Mentor assigned. For each, NRD, the Mentor shall be assigned to the city indicated below.

Atlanta, GA, North Chicago, IL, Dallas, TX, Denver, CO, Houston, TX, Jacksonville, FL, Los Angeles, CA, Miami, FL, Tampa, FL, Detroit, MI, Minneapolis, MN, Nashville, TN, Burlington, VT, Lafayette, LA, New Orleans, LA, East Meadow, NY, Columbus, OH, Bethesda, MD, Phoenix, AZ, Pittsburgh, PA, Portland, OR, New Bern, NC, St. Louis, MO, Kansas City, MO, Memphis, TN, Norfolk, VA, San Diego, CA, San Antonio, TX, Sacramento, CA, Bremerton/Bangor, WA, Raleigh, NC or Richmond, VA.

If you or someone you know is interested, please fax the enclosed letter of intent to (252) 435-6388. We appreciate your time and consideration. Any questions should be directed to Ray Horst.

Thank you,

Gary Jackson (CW04 Ret. SEAL)

(That's a real recruiting letter.)

I searched and I could not find Opportunity Number: N00140-07-R-0001 I did learn that NSW/NSO translated into Naval Special Warfare/Naval Special Operations and the N means Navy and finally that the R means Administrative. I thing they were looking for SEAL Mentors, to place all over the country. We need SEAL Mentors in Burlington and Denver? Is Burlington anywhere near Jericho?

Russia's Air Force commander said Wednesday he considers nuclear missile launches by terrorists or 'rogue states' to be a genuine threat. "Increasingly probable and dangerous for the US, Russia and European countries are single or multiple missile strikes from third countries, known as rogue states, countries with unstable, non-democratic regimes, or terrorist organizations with access to missile technology," Vladimir Mikhailov said.

Mikhailov said accidental launches were also possible.

"Although accidental launches of missiles with nuclear warheads have not occurred in the history of nuclear missile technology, this does not mean they will not occur in the future, given the growing spread of nuclear missiles," he said.

Mikhailov also said terrorist organizations and the countries harboring them would not be deterred by the threat of a retaliatory strike, which has acted as a constraint for Russia and the United States, the world's largest nuclear powers.

"The objective of terrorists is to attract as much attention to their attacks as possible," he said.

Retaliation against a missile strike is also fraught with massive civilian casualties and destruction, the commander said, referring to recent warfare between Israel and Lebanon.

Mikhailov warned that missile technology will be increasingly popular in 21st century conflicts due to its combat capability and relatively small size.

International non-proliferation efforts have been facing difficulties in recent years.

North Korea said it conducted its first nuclear test on October 9, which could make it the ninth country known to have nuclear weapons, along with the US, Russia, France, China, Britain, India, Pakistan, and Israel, the latter three being de-facto nuclear powers.

The secretive Communist state is already under UN sanctions over the move, while Iran faces sanctions over its defiance to halt uranium enrichment. The Islamic Republic has been in at center of an international nuclear dispute, suspected of pursuing nuclear weapons under the guise of a civilian energy program.

Russia has taken a moderate position in both disputes, acknowledging the countries' right to peaceful nuclear power under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but voicing concerns over their unwillingness to ease the international suspicions.

Who attacked the US, Russians? I thought it was them, maybe I was wrong.



## Silent Running – Chapter 23

November 22, 2006 – Citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda will be required to present a passport to enter the United States when arriving by air from any part of the Western Hemisphere beginning January 23, 2007 as part of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI).

“The ability to misuse travel documents to enter this country opens the door for a terrorist to carry out an attack.” said Secretary Michael Chertoff. “This initiative strengthens our border security by designating verifiable secure documents that may be used at our air ports of entry.”

Papers please!

Where do I stand on the issues of our day?

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

I trust in God.

The first President, Washington, added the words, “So help me God,” to the oath of office. He said in his goodbye address that the basic laws of morality can be found in religion. I believe the basic laws of morality are:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt... You shall have no other gods before Me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God...

Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

In the case: *EVERSON v. BOARD OF EDUCATION OF EWING TP.*, 330US1 (1947), Justice Hugo Black, a devote anti-Catholic, issued a ruling that began our slow slide into perdition. The current court includes 5 Catholic's. Justice Black, relied on a phrase from a letter written by Thomas Jefferson in his decision. In the words of Jefferson, the clause against establishment of religion by law was intended to erect 'a wall of separation between Church and State.' *Reynolds v. United States*, 98US at page 164.

The reference is to a letter Jefferson wrote to a Baptist group where he first cited the 1st amendment and added after a comma, and therefore erects 'a wall of separation between Church and State. It was taken out of context and quoted. That case is the basis for all subsequent cases and the basis for removing 'under God' from the Pledge of Allegiance and removal of the Ten Commandments from the courthouse.

Think about it, it arose because someone objected using taxpayer dollars to bus catholic children to catholic school with taxpayer dollars. What they overlooked was the fact that some of those taxpayer dollars came from Catholic's. Under the same theory, they couldn't use catholic taxpayer dollars to bus non-Catholic children to a non-Catholic school.

Several countries have mandatory conscription:

Austria, Belarus, Bermuda, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China (PRC), Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Eritrea, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iran, Israel, South Korea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan (ROC), Turkey, Ukraine and Venezuela.

Rep. Charles Rangel wants to reinstitute the draft. I like the idea, and think it should be applied equally to men and women. A person should have 2 choices: 3 years in the military or 6 years in the Peace Corps. People who complete their conscription can apply for citizenship. I believe that would solve two problems: our military would be large enough to handle a war; and, it would reduce illegal aliens.

When the NRA gave me a chance to up my membership from Endowment to Patron for only \$250, I did it. I considered it to just to be an expensive jacket. The NRA is the number ONE organization trying to keep our rights under the 2nd Amendment.

I believe that George Bush got lost in the fog. Robert McNamara's Book, *The Fog of War*, is what I'm referring to. An Academy Award winning film, *The Fog of War: Eleven Lessons from the Life of Robert S. McNamara* listed the following lessons:

1. Empathize with your enemy.
2. Rationality will not save us.
3. There's something beyond one's self.
4. Maximize efficiency.

5. Proportionality should be a guideline in war.
6. Get the data.
7. Belief and seeing are both often wrong.
8. Be prepared to reexamine your reasoning.
9. In order to do good, you may have to engage in evil.
10. Never say never.
11. You can't change human nature.

These were written as a companion to the film and are included in the Special Features of the DVD:

1. The human race will not eliminate war in this century but we can reduce war, the level of killing, by adhering to the principles of a just war, in particular of proportionality.
2. The indefinite combinations of human fallibility and nuclear weapons will lead to the destruction of nations.
3. We are the most powerful nation in the world – economically, politically, and militarily – and we are likely to remain so for decades ahead. But we are not omniscient. If we cannot persuade other nations with similar interests and similar values of the merits of the proposed use of that power, we should not proceed unilaterally except in the unlikely requirement to defend the continental US, Alaska and Hawaii.
4. Moral principles are often ambiguous guides to foreign policy and defense policy, but surely we can agree that we should establish as a major goal of US foreign policy and, indeed, of foreign policy across the globe: the avoidance in this century of the carnage – 160 million dead – caused by conflict in the 20th century.
5. We, the richest nation in the world, have failed in our responsibility to our own poor and to the disadvantaged across the world to help them advance their welfare in the most fundamental terms of nutrition, literacy, health, and employment.
6. Corporate executives must recognize there is no contradiction between a soft heart and a hard head. Of course, they have responsibilities to their employees, their customers and to society as a whole.
7. President Kennedy believed a primary responsibility of a president – indeed “the” primary responsibility of a president – is to keep the nation out of war, if at all possible.
8. War is a blunt instrument by which to settle disputes between or within nations, and economic sanctions are rarely effective. Therefore, we should build a system of jurisprudence based on the International Court – that the US has refused to support – which would hold individuals responsible for crimes against humanity.
9. If we are to deal effectively with terrorists across the globe, we must develop a sense of empathy – I don't mean “sympathy” but rather “understanding” to counter their attacks on us and the Western World.
10. One of the greatest dangers we face today is the risk of mass destruction as a result of the breakdown of the Non-Proliferation Regime. We – the US – are contributing to that breakdown.

Our approach to Iraq was wrong; we should have listened to Colin Powell. The real problem was we couldn't conduct the war the way Powell wanted, our military was too small. As I understand it, Powell would have used massive force, at least 400,000

troops. The questions posed by the Powell Doctrine, which should be answered affirmatively before military action, are:

1. Is a vital national security interest threatened?
2. Do we have a clear attainable objective?
3. Have the risks and costs been fully and frankly analyzed?
4. Have all other non-violent policy means been fully exhausted?
5. Is there a plausible exit strategy to avoid endless entanglement?
6. Have the consequences of our action been fully considered?
7. Is the action supported by the American people?
8. Do we have genuine broad international support?

The fifth point of the Doctrine is normally interpreted to mean that the US should not get involved in peacekeeping or nation-building exercises. Powell expanded upon the Doctrine, asserting that when a nation is engaging in war, every resource and tool should be used to achieve overwhelming force against the enemy, minimizing US casualties and ending the conflict quickly by forcing the weaker force to capitulate. This is well in line with Western military strategy dating at least from Carl von Clausewitz's *On War*. However, in the context of the *Just War theory*, the doctrine of overwhelming force may violate the principle of proportionality.

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell has joined the list of prominent figures speaking out bluntly against Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's handling of the war in Iraq.

Addressing the annual conference of the National School Board Association in Chicago on Saturday, Powell said: "We made some serious mistakes in the immediate aftermath of the fall of Baghdad.

"We didn't have enough troops on the ground. We didn't impose our will. And as a result, an insurgency got started and... got out of control."

Powell was behind failed US efforts to get the United Nations Security Council to endorse a resolution for the 2003 invasion of Iraq. After retiring in 2005, he expressed anger that the intelligence he presented at the time turned out to be largely incorrect, the New York Sun reports.

Since returning to private life, Powell has devoted much of his time to the Colin Powell Policy Center at the City College of New York, his alma mater.

A number of Powell's old colleagues have already gone on the record voicing their concerns about the war in Iraq.

On April 2, the former general in charge of Central Command, Anthony Zinni, called on Rumsfeld to resign because of a "series of disastrous mistakes."

Former Lt. General Greg Newbold, who resigned from the military in 2002 in large part due to his opposition to the Iraq war, writes in this week's issue of Time magazine that the conflict is "an unnecessary war" and calls for, "as a first step, replacing Rumsfeld and many others unwilling to change their approach."

In mid-March, a third retired general, Paul Eaton – who was in charge of training Iraqi troops – wrote an op-ed piece for the New York Times also calling on Rumsfeld to resign.

The neoconservative Weekly Standard first called on Rumsfeld to step aside in 2005 because of his decision to run the occupation of Iraq with what the Standard maintains were too few troops.

But Thomas Donnelly, a Defense expert at the American Enterprise Institute, said on Monday that Rumsfeld is not likely to resign.

"I think Rumsfeld has a constituency of one, but that one happens to be the president," he said. "I don't sense at all that the White House is feeling any pressure to make a change."

Rumsfeld resigned and Dubya nominated Gates. Gates wanted to bomb Ortega. In 1984, Robert Gates, then the No. 2 CIA official, advocated US airstrikes against Nicaragua's pro-Cuban government to reverse what he described as an ineffective US strategy to deal with communist advances in Central America, previously classified documents say.

Gates, President George W. Bush's nominee to be defense secretary, said the United States could no longer justify what he described as "halfhearted" attempts to contain Nicaragua's Sandinista government, according to documents released Friday by the National Security Archive, a private research group.

In a memo to CIA Director William Casey dated Dec. 14, 1984, Gates said his proposed air strikes would be designed "to destroy a considerable portion of Nicaragua's military buildup" and be focused on tanks and helicopters.

He also recommended that the United States prevent delivery to the Sandinistas of such weapons in the future. The administration, he said, should make clear that a US invasion of the country was not contemplated.

The target of Gates' anxieties Nicaragua's leftist president, Daniel Ortega.

Ironically, Gates' nomination to succeed Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was announced just days after Ortega capped off a surprise political comeback by winning election as Nicaraguan president after three previous bids were rejected by the voters.

Ortega has recast himself as a moderate, assuring Nicaraguans that his Marxist-Leninist days are over.

Gates saw a calamitous situation in Central America in December 1984. Congress had ordered a halt to US support for the Contra rebels, leaving Ortega free, as Gates saw it, to establish Nicaragua as a “permanent and well-armed” ally of the Soviet Union and Cuba.

He said the United States should acknowledge that the existence of a Marxist-Leninist regime in Nicaragua closely allied to Moscow and Havana “is unacceptable to the United States and that the United States will do everything its power short of invasion to put that regime out.”

In addition to air strikes, he recommended withdrawal of US recognition of the Nicaraguan government and recognition of a Nicaraguan government in exile that would be entitled to US military support.

Economic sanctions should be considered, “perhaps even including a quarantine,” Gates wrote.

His proposals were never adopted but the administration attempted to circumvent the Contra aid ban by secretly funneling money to the rebels that had been obtained through arms sales to Iran. Democrat says they will question Gates during his Senate confirmation about his knowledge of the Iran-Contra scandal, which erupted two years after he sent his memo to Casey.

Gates’ grim prediction in the memo of disaster in Central America did not come to pass. Congress renewed aid to the Contras in 1986. In February 1990, Nicaraguans dealt a blow to the Soviet Union and Cuba by voting Ortega out of office. And within two years, the Soviet Union had disappeared.

Washington Post – Sunday, June 4, 2006

On Monday, June 19, about 4,000 government workers representing more than 50 federal agencies from the State Department to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission will say goodbye to their families and set off for dozens of classified emergency facilities stretching from the Maryland and Virginia suburbs to the foothills of the Alleghenies. They will take to the bunkers in an “evacuation” that my sources describe as the largest “continuity of government” exercise ever conducted, a drill intended to prepare the US government for an event even more catastrophic than the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The exercise is the latest manifestation of an obsession with government survival that has been a hallmark of the Bush administration since 9/11, a focus of enormous and often absurd time, money and effort that has come to echo the worst follies of the Cold War. The vast secret operation has updated the duck-and-cover scenarios of the 1950s

with state-of-the-art technology – alerts and updates delivered by pager and PDA, wireless priority service, video teleconferencing, remote backups – to ensure that “essential” government functions continue undisrupted should a terrorist’s nuclear bomb go off in downtown Washington.

But for all the BlackBerry culture, the outcome is still old-fashioned black and white: We’ve spent hundreds of millions of dollars on alternate facilities, data warehouses and communications, yet no one can really foretell what would happen to the leadership and functioning of the federal government in a catastrophe.

After 9/11, The Washington Post reported that President Bush had set up a shadow government of about 100 senior civilian managers to live and work outside Washington on a rotating basis to ensure the continuity of national security. Since then, a program once focused on presidential succession and civilian control of US nuclear weapons has been expanded to encompass the entire government. From the Department of Education to the Small Business Administration to the National Archives, every department and agency is now required to plan for continuity outside Washington.

Yet according to scores of documents I’ve obtained and interviews with half a dozen sources, there’s no greater confidence today that essential services would be maintained in a disaster. And no one really knows how an evacuation would even be physically possible.

Moreover, since 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, the definition of what constitutes an “essential” government function has been expanded so ridiculously beyond core national security functions – do we really need patent and trademark processing in the middle of a nuclear holocaust? – that the term has become meaningless. The intent of the government effort may be laudable, even necessary, but a hyper-centralized approach based on the Cold War model of evacuations and bunkering makes it practically worthless.

That the continuity program is so poorly conceived, and poorly run, should come as no surprise. That’s because the same Federal Emergency Management Agency that failed New Orleans after Katrina, an agency that a Senate investigating committee has pronounced “in shambles and beyond repair,” is in charge of this enormous effort to plan for the US government’s survival.

Continuity programs began in the early 1950s, when the threat of nuclear war moved the administration of President Harry S. Truman to begin planning for emergency government functions and civil defense. Evacuation bunkers were built, and an incredibly complex and secretive shadow government program was created.

At its height, the grand era of continuity boasted the fully operational Mount Weather, a civilian bunker built along the crest of Virginia’s Blue Ridge, to which most agency heads would evacuate; the Greenbrier hotel complex and bunker in West Virginia, where Congress would shelter; and Raven Rock, or Site R, a national security bunker

bored into granite along the Pennsylvania-Maryland border near Camp David, where the Joint Chiefs of Staff would command a protracted nuclear war. Special communications networks were built, and evacuation and succession procedures were practiced continually.

When the Soviet Union crumbled, the program became a Cold War curiosity: Then-Defense Secretary Dick Cheney ordered Raven Rock into caretaker status in 1991. The Greenbrier bunker was shuttered and a 30-year-old special access program was declassified three years later.

Then came the terrorist attacks of the mid-1990s and the looming Y2K rollover, and suddenly continuity wasn't only for nuclear war anymore. On Oct. 21, 1998, President Bill Clinton signed Presidential Decision Directive 67, "Enduring Constitutional Government and Continuity of Government Operations." No longer would only the very few elite leaders responsible for national security be covered. Instead, every single government department and agency was directed to see to it that they could resume critical functions within 12 hours of a warning, and keep their operations running at emergency facilities for up to 30 days. FEMA was put in charge of this broad new program.

On 9/11, the program was put to the test – and failed. Not on the national security side: Vice President Cheney and others in the national security leadership were smoothly whisked away from the capital following procedures overseen by the Pentagon and the White House Military Office. But like the mass of Washingtonians, officials from other agencies found themselves virtually on their own, unsure of where to go or what to do, or whom to contact for the answers.

In the aftermath, the federal government was told to reinvigorate its continuity efforts. Bush approved lines of succession for civil agencies. Cabinet departments and agencies were assigned specific emergency responsibilities. FEMA issued new preparedness guidelines and oversaw training. A National Capital Region continuity working group established in 1999, comprising six White House groups, 15 departments and 61 agencies, met to coordinate.

But all the frenetic activity did not produce a government prepared for the worst. A year after 9/11, and almost three years after the deadline set in Clinton's 1998 directive, the Government Accounting Office evaluated 38 agencies and found that not one had addressed all the issues it had been ordered to. A 2004 GAO audit of 34 government continuity-of-operations plans found total confusion on the question of essential functions. One unnamed organization listed 399 such functions. A department included providing "speeches and articles for the Secretary and Deputy Secretary" among its essential duties, while neglecting many of its central programs.

The confusion and absurdity have continued, according to documents I've collected over the past few years. In June 2004, FEMA told federal agencies that essential services in a catastrophe would include not only such obvious ones as electric power generation and disaster relief but also patent and trademark processing, student aid and



passport processing. A month earlier, FEMA had told states and local communities that library services should be counted as essential along with fire protection and law enforcement.

None of this can be heartening to Americans who want to believe that in a crisis, their government can distinguish between what is truly essential and what isn't – and provide it.

Just two years ago, an exercise called Forward Challenge '04 pointed up the danger of making everyone and everything essential: Barely an hour after agencies were due to arrive at their relocation sites, the Office of Management and Budget asked the reconstituted government to identify emergency funding requirements.

As one after-action report for the exercise later put it in a classic case of understatement: "It was not clear... whether this would be a realistic request at that stage of an emergency."

This year's exercise, Forward Challenge '06, will be the third major interagency continuity exercise since 9/11. Larger than Forward Challenge '04 and the Pinnacle exercise held last year, it requires 31 departments and agencies (including FEMA) to relocate. Fifty to 60 are expected to take part.

According to government sources, the exercise will test the newly created continuity of government alert conditions – called COGCONs – that emulate the DEFCONs of the national security community. Forward Challenge will begin with a series of alerts via BlackBerry and pager to key officials. It will test COGCON 1, the highest level of preparedness, in which each department and agency is required to have at least one person in its chain of command and sufficient staffing at alternate operating facilities to perform essential functions.

Though key White House officials and military leadership would be relocated via the Pentagon's Joint Emergency Evacuation Program (JEEP), the civilians are on their own to make it to their designated evacuation points.

But fear not: Each organization's COOP, or continuity of operations plan, details the best routes to the emergency locations. The plans even spell out what evacuees should take with them (recommended items: a combination lock, a flashlight, two towels and a small box of washing powder).

Can such an exercise, announced well in advance, hope to re-create any of the tensions and fears of a real crisis? How do you simulate the experience of driving through blazing, radiated, panic-stricken streets to emergency bunker sites miles away?

As the Energy Department stated in its review of Forward Challenge '04, "a method needs to be devised to realistically test the ability of... federal offices to relocate to their

COOP sites using a scenario that simulates... the monumental challenges that would be involved in evacuating the city.”

With its new plans and procedures, Washington may think it has thought of everything to save itself. Forward Challenge will no doubt be deemed a success, and officials will pronounce the continuity-of-government project sound. There will be lessons to be learned that will justify more millions of dollars and more work in the infinite effort to guarantee order out of chaos.

But the main defect – a bunker mentality that considers too many people and too many jobs “essential” – will remain unchallenged.

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I divided up my guns because I thought it was over. I forgot; the Opry ain't over until the fat lady sings. I was in the same position I'd been before TSHTF. Not quite, I still had the shelter, fully stocked, and most of my survival supplies. My crystal ball must have had a crack in it, Ron was gone and Linda was thinking about leaving to see if she could track down her kids. She told Sharon that since they hadn't bought the house, she'd put their things in storage in Paris and come back for them later.

That's where we got to the strip my gears and call me shiftless part; she gave me all of Ron's guns. I was standing there with my chin on the ground just staring when she told me that. I snapped out of it quickly and proceeded to haul them all to armory in the shelter; it had been looking a bit on the bare side.

A few days later Derek and Damon helped Linda mover her things into the storage bin and Derek came with me to the shelter to check out stuff she'd given me.

“.375 H&H magnum? You shoot that and it will knock you flat on your ass.”

“Ron told me that the Winchester .338 was worse.”

“I thought you passed out the guns because you were dying.”

“I passed out the guns because the doc told me my labs didn't look good, I'm anemic again. The last time that happened my ulcers were bleeding and it didn't look good.”

“What did you do to heal them?”

“I took Carafate and Prevacid. The gastroenterologist said if I had problems I could take Prevacid BID, however, I'd have to see a doc to get a prescription for Carafate and he'd probably wouldn't prescribe it without another gastric endoscopy.”

“How about doubling up the Prevacid and using something like Maalox?”

“I don’t think so; the doc said that Carafate is used to heal the ulcers.”

“Then get some.”

## Silent Running – Chapter 24

I hadn't checked the supplies the boys had gathered when they'd cleaned out the pharmacies, I guess I should have. When I looked, I found enough Carafate to last me for 2 months, the recommended treatment period. I also doubled up on my Prevacid, we weren't short on that. I waited 2 months and got another CBC. My blood was back in the normal ranges so I finished off the Carafate and cut the Prevacid back to QD.

Derek and Mary moved into the house Linda had vacated and I found all of my guns back in the armory. My only problem now was bringing the ammunition levels up to levels I always recommended, 2,000 rounds per handgun and 5,000 rounds per rifle. With the price of .375 H&H and .338 Winchester running about \$4 a round, I thought better of the quantity and decided to settle for 2 or 3 200-round cases of each, probably a lifetime supply for both Derek and me. In fact, the logical thing to do was to buy case lots of ammo, preferably from the same lot instead of worrying about the number of rounds. We'd probably end up ammo poor, e.g., spend so much on ammo we ran out of money.

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The cities that had been bombed were, for the most part, total losses. Rather than funnel good money trying to clean them up and rebuild them, the feds announced they'd build new cities in the general area of the former city, thereby saving the cost of the cleanup. I tended to end my stories before the country was rebuilt; it was more focused on preparations.

"Hey Sharon, what year is it?"

"2015, why?"

"I wanted to know and guess I forgot. Time really flies when you're not having fun. Did you hear that stuff on the news, the feds are going to build new cities, not clean up the old ones."

"Yes, I heard, why?"

"I remember reading a story when I was a kid. It was about a fella you first took to be an Indian going into a city years after a nuclear war. I figured out the city was New York from the description. It was called, *By the Waters of Babylon*, and I found it on the internet and copied it. Let me read you a paragraph, it's interesting."

*The north and the west and the south are good hunting ground, but it is forbidden to go east. It is forbidden to go to any of the Dead Places except to search for metal and then he who touches the metal must be a priest or the son of a priest. Afterwards, both the man and the metal must be purified. These are the rules and the laws; they are well made. It is forbidden to cross the great river and look upon the place that was the Place of the Gods – this is most strictly forbidden. We do not even say its name though we*

*know its name. It is there that spirits live, and demons – it is there that there are the ashes of the Great Burning. These things are forbidden – they have been forbidden since the beginning of time.*

“Why does that sound familiar?”

“The title is taken by the Bible, Psalm 137. *By the waters, the waters of Babylon, we sat down and wept, and wept for thee, Zion. We remember, we remember, we remember thee, Zion.*”

“Getting your house in order for when you die?”

“It’s too late for that; I committed a sin when I killed those 4 guys from Blackwater.”

“Thou shall not kill?”

“No, it actually says, Thou shall not murder. They pissed me of so I tracked them down and murdered them.”

“Are you sure they were Blackwater and not soldiers?”

“Yeah the uniforms weren’t quite standard USGI.”

“And why do you think you won’t go to Heaven?”

“Ask Moses, he couldn’t go to the Promised Land because he killed an Egyptian guard.”

“How do you remember that story, was it a novel?”

“No, about 2 pages long. It was my first exposure to Science Fiction, although it might also qualify as Fantasy. It was written in 1937 by Stephen Vincent Benét. I didn’t know that when I first read it, I automatically thought of a nuclear war.”

At about the time our original 13 states adopted their new constitution, in the year 1787, Alexander Tyler (a Scottish history professor at The University of Edinburgh) had this to say about *The Fall of The Athenian Republic* some 2,000 years prior.

*A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse due to loose fiscal policy, (which is) always followed by a dictatorship.*

*The average age of the world's greatest civilizations from the beginning of history, has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence:*

*From Bondage to spiritual faith;  
From spiritual faith to great courage;  
From courage to liberty;  
From liberty to abundance;  
From abundance to complacency;  
From complacency to apathy;  
From apathy to dependence;  
From dependence back into bondage.*

Sir Alex Fraser Tytler (1742-1813), Scottish jurist, historian and professor of Universal History at Edinburgh University. From a collection of lectures 1801, as cited in A Dictionary of Quotations, 1989.

Ezekiel 16:49: *"Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had arrogance, abundant food, and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy."*

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"What's the date?"

"I told you, 2015."

"No, I mean the day and month."

"March 22, 2015."

"What are you getting me for a birthday present?"

"How about a devil's food cake?"

"Coffee frosting?"

"If you insist."

"Fine, don't frost it for all I care."

"I thought you liked creamed cheese frosting."

"I do, but I like coffee better."

"You have a letter from the bank."

2015? The good news was the bank in Iowa was still there and our checking account was full of money. I knew that they hadn't put all of the trust money in the stock market. The portion they had hadn't disappeared, completely. Some of the corporations were making a comeback. Trust Fund managers are probably the most conservative people in the world when it comes to making investments. They have an obligation to protect the principal. It had been 4 years plus since World War III. If you were paying attention, that happened on December 7, 2010, 69 years after Pearl Harbor.

"We're rich!"

"How rich?"

"Real rich, Iowa resumed paying the pension and the bank had at least one-third of the trust in CDs. The letter says we have over \$70,000 in our checking and savings accounts. Matt says they transferred money from checking to savings once the checking account balance went over \$15,000. Whoop dee do, they paid 1½% interest."

"What else does the letter say?"

"He wants to know if we want to write checks or drive to Charles City and pick up cash."

"Why don't you tell him to wire transfer the money to our Paris account? It would be cheaper than driving there and we'd have the money sooner."

"Good idea, it took the letter 49 days to get here."

I drove to town in my Jeep and went to the bank. I showed the letter to the manager and asked if he could arrange for a wire transfer to our Paris account. Residential phone service really wasn't up to par, but the bank had long distance. He called the number in the letter and asked to speak to Matt. Then he explained that I wanted to arrange a wire transfer of the funds. Matt asked to speak to me to confirm the transaction and agree to the wire transfer fee. I told him to wire the balance in both accounts, less any minimum balance.

"Mr. Ott, the money will be available tomorrow. Thank you."

"What, I can't have any now?"

"Not until the money posts to your account. Cash withdrawals are limited to \$1,000 per day."

My next stop was the gun store to order the ammo I mentioned. What the hell, I ordered 2 cases each for the big rifles and at least 1 case for each pistol. The guy said I'd have to pay in advance. I explained that I had just received a wire transfer and the money wouldn't be available until the next day. He said he'd hold the check one day and when

it cleared the bank, order the ammo. I asked how long and he said a week to 10 days. It was frustrating, to say the least. They have your money but won't let you have it and they want your money before they'll order your goods. Will a Stinger take out a gun shop? Life hadn't changed much in the intervening years.

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Most of Ron's handguns were .357 magnum. Thank God that was available in a 500 round case. I prefer the 158 grain bullets and divided the ammo between SJHP and SJSP. I also had to buy 9mm, .38 Special and .41 magnum. All of his rifles except for the 2 elephant guns were 5.56x45mm (.223). The only brand of ammo still available in civilian calibers in quantity was Winchester.

"Well?"

"They transferred the money, it will be available tomorrow. I ordered ammo and we can go shopping and fill in the shelves in the shelter."

"Did you buy ammo for all of the rifles Linda gave you?"

"A little, yes. Not like my M1As, I didn't; I keep a few thousand rounds for them."

"Did you ever finish off that South African ammo you bought when you bought the first M1A?"

"Not yet, but I'm working on it."

"I still don't see why you need so many guns."

"For a while, dear. Sometimes I need a light rifle and I use the SR-556. Sometimes I need a heavy rifle and use one of the M1As. Once in a while, I need a real sniper rifle and go with the Super Match or the Tac-50. I didn't buy those elephant guns Ron had, but it doesn't make sense to have them and not have ammo for them."

"How much did you buy?"

"Two boxes for each rifle and one box for each handgun."

"What size box?"

"You're going to burn the soup."

"No, I'm not and don't change the subject."

"A case sized box."



“That’s not as large as a military case, is it?”

“No dear (but it costs a lot more). A military case is 1,000 rounds, these were 200 round cases.”

“Why only one case per handgun?”

“Large cases, 500 rounds.”

“Well ok, as long as you kept it within reason.”

“Gee, thanks. Did you put milk in the soup?”

“I fixed it both ways, water for you and milk for me.”

It should be obvious by now that she made tomato soup. The can says add water, but she likes cream of tomato soup and adds milk. I hate it and refuse to eat it when she does that. She won’t eat it if it’s made with water. She had baked the cake while I was gone; so after lunch, I made the coffee frosting. It’s nothing more than chocolate butter crème frosting that you use hot coffee in as the liquid. I was very happy she didn’t ask how much a case of ammo cost. I didn’t fool her for long, she balances the checkbook. By then, it was my birthday and she couldn’t get mad at me on my birthday, right?

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“How many cans of coffee?”

“I just got 6.”

“6 cans or 6 trays?”

“Trays. But, that’s only 36 cans.”

“I didn’t realize we were that low on coffee.”

“I checked, we were very low.”

“I’m not disputing you; I just ask cans or trays.”

Do you go through that with your wife? After I pull the 2 boxes bit with the ammo, I suppose the question was reasonable. We were low on coffee, but not really that low, I just wanted to load up on it while we had the money. There were several things we had some of, but more would be better, just in case. You know how it is with people who are preparedness oriented; it’s easier to say a box than a case. So what if the box contains 6 8 pound bags of elbow macaroni? It doesn’t spoil, you know.

For less than I spent on ammo, we filled the larder and then some. For the first years after the war, if you didn't have it or couldn't grow it, you often went without. It had gotten to the point where we only had coffee with meals, even with the salvage operation. Towards the end, we were drinking French Market, I loved it; they hated it. I suspected I could have gotten 12 trays of Folgers and Sharon wouldn't have objected. Our storage in the shelter didn't have a lot of different products, but it did have a lot of each one we had. Like I told you, buy what you eat and eat what you buy. When it's on sale, buy more.

"What next?"

"I think we'd better load up on supplies for the generator, 3-4 drums of oil, a couple cases of filters and top off all the tanks."

"Does it need to be serviced?"

"I'm not sure, call someone and have it checked over. The average life on a diesel engine without a rebuild is 13-30 thousand hours, provided you keep the unit serviced."

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About 10 days after my birthday, I took Damon and we picked up my ammo. The guy said it had been harder to get than he thought, but everything I wanted came in. He had 2 extra cases of .357 magnum if I wanted them. I was going to say no when I spied a Marlin 1894C in the rack. It's a nice little carbine in .357 magnum, perfect for Sharon.

Right after the war, the price of gold and silver had gone through the roof, running on average, \$2,000 and \$40 an ounce respectively. It had slowly come down because the government hadn't gone back to the gold standard. It was being discussed in Congress with a price ranging anywhere from \$750 an ounce to \$1,250 an ounce and a ratio between the price of gold and silver set at 50:1. When we'd finished our spending spree, we discussed converting some of the remaining money to gold and silver coins. At the moment, word was the Congress was leaning toward \$750 and that brought the price down.

"I just don't know Gary; you always claimed bad things happened in 3s. We had the terrorist attacks, the war and then the government problems. That's 3, right? How much do you want to tie up in precious metal?"

"How about \$40,000?"

"What can you get for that?"

"I checked and the out the door price of gold is \$800 an ounce. That's 50 ounces, but I thought we'd get most of it in smaller denominations, 0.5, 0.25 and 0.1 ounce gold coins and 1 ounce silver coins."

“Will that leave us any spending money?”

“About 10 grand plus whatever there is in the Iowa accounts.”

“Do what you think best.”

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“What are you doing?”

“Leaning on my hoe, Derek. I’m too old for this stuff. What’s new?”

“We’re all working, I’m at the post office and Mary is driving bus. Amy works for the Sheriff’s department and Lorrie watches the kids. Sharon said you bought some gold.”

“Yeah, I bought 12 ounces of each of the 4 gold denominations plus spent the rest on one ounce silver coins. I don’t know if it was a good investment or not, that will depend on Congress.”

“They put us back on the gold standard.”

“When?”

“The President signed the bill today, effective June 1st.”

“At what price?”

“\$1,000 an ounce on gold, \$20 on silver.”

“Hot damn, we just made 25% on my investment, as of June 1st. Here, you hoe for a while and I’ll watch.”

“Why don’t you go in the house and I’ll finish up for you?”

“Thanks. I’ll plant my butt in that lawn chair. We planted for the entire family.”

“I noticed you had the shelter full of food again, I don’t know why you do it.”

“I was talking to some of the members of the Resistance, Ray and Chato and a couple of others. They’re doing the same thing.”

“Why?”

“Because, they don’t think the third shoe has dropped.”

“How do they figure?”

“They say the government troubles started before the war and were part of the overall damage caused by the war.”

“So, what’s the third shoe?”

“Ray and Chato favor the New Madrid Fault letting loose, some others said Yellowstone is way over due and one guy insisted we’ll have an ice age.”

“What do you think?”

“I think my crystal ball is cracked. Whatever happens, it had better hurry, at my age, I won’t have to worry about it for long. Think about it, La Palma could slide into the sea and the tsunami would wipe out the east coast. The Cascadian subduction zone could slip and wipe out most of the west coast. Yellowstone could blow up again and cover half the US with ash. Either the San Andreas or New Madrid Faults could let loose with a big one. From the weather, I doubt we’re going to have to worry about another ice age for a while.”

“I thought you said that Alaska was the most active area.”

“Historically, it has been. But, they’re interrelated. Yellowstone had a swarm after an earthquake somewhere else. There isn’t any rule that I know of that says several of them couldn’t happen at once.”

“What do you mean?”

“Let’s say Cascadia let loose. What’s to prevent that from triggering a response on the San Andreas? What to prevent the both of them from triggering Long Valley and/or Yellowstone? If that happened, the New Madrid could go. There’s just no definable cause and effect relationship that anyone has ever proven. If there was, they’d be able to predict earthquakes. At the moment, the best they can do is anticipating them from seismic swarms. A rock could slam into planet Earth and trigger them all at once.”

“How?”

“You’ve heard of the Ring of Fire? 90% of the world’s earthquakes and 81% of the world’s largest earthquakes occur along the Ring of Fire. The next most seismic region (5–6% of earthquakes and 17% of the world’s largest earthquakes) is the Alpide belt which extends from Java to Sumatra through the Himalayas, the Mediterranean, and out into the Atlantic. The Mid-Atlantic Ridge is the third most prominent earthquake belt.”

“Is La Palma part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge?”

“No, it’s in the Canary Islands, off the African coast.”

“Damon, grab a hoe and give Derek a hand.”

“I might grab a hoe, but I won’t share her.”

“Watch your mouth.”

“Sorry. So, what were the two of you talking about?”

“The end of the world, what else?”

“I thought that already happened, twice.”

“Bad things happen in 3s, Damon.”

“Yeah, but, we’ve had 3, the terrorist attacks, the war and the aftermath.”

“Dad doesn’t agree with that bro.”

“Is that right?”

“That’s right, Damon, I don’t agree with that. What’s more I’m not sure I’m happy with the new government. I’m old, so what do I know? I know that every time we get something good, the government screws it up. For example, the M14 rifle. For example, the Spruance class destroyer. Biggest destroyer ever built by this country. They decommissioned the last one in 2005. Damn fine ship, one of them was only 20 years old.”

“They’re still around Dad.”

“Yeah, sure, as part of somebody’s car.”

“You’re wrong.”

“I might be a little short on being right, but I’m never wrong.”

“I know that one, *In Harm’s Way*.”

“Speaking of which, when are you going to finish your half of the story?”

## Silent Running – Chapter 25

*Get out from that kitchen  
and rattle those pots and pans,  
Get out from that kitchen  
and rattle those pots and pans.  
Well, roll my breakfast,  
'cause I'm a hungry man.*

*I said Shake rattle and roll,  
I said Shake rattle and roll,  
I said Shake rattle and roll,  
I said Shake rattle and roll;  
Well you never do nothin'  
to save your doggone soul.*

*Wearin' those dresses,  
your hair done up so right  
Wearin' those dresses,  
your hair done up so right;  
You look so warm,  
but your heart is cold as ice.*

*I said Shake rattle and roll,  
I said Shake rattle and roll,  
I said Shake rattle and roll,  
I said Shake rattle and roll,  
Well you never do nothin'  
to save your doggone soul.*

*I'm like a one-eyed cat,  
peepin' in a sea-food store,  
I'm like a one-eyed cat,  
peepin' in a sea-food store;  
I can look at you,  
till you don't love me no more.*

*I believe you're doin' me wrong  
and now I know,  
I believe you're doin' me wrong  
and now I know;  
The more I work,  
the faster my money goes.*

*I said Shake rattle and roll,  
I said Shake rattle and roll,*

*I said Shake rattle and roll,  
I said Shake rattle and roll,  
Well you never do nothin'  
to save your doggone soul.  
Shake rattle and roll!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

o

“Never, too soon?”

“You wasted a perfectly good title, Damon.”

“Maybe, but your wrong about the Spruance, there are still 22 of them afloat and in service, you just know it by a different name. The Ticonderoga class guided missile cruiser is a Spruance class destroyer, using the same highly successful hull and propulsion but incorporating the Aegis Mk 7 weapon system (SPY-1 series phased-array radar, four missile illuminator radars, Mk 26 or Mk 41 missile-launch system, etc.). Bow bulwarks were required to keep decks dry, as draft was increased about three feet over that of the original Spruance design. No fin stabilization is fitted. CG 49 and later have lighter tripod after masts. Kevlar armor is incorporated over vital spaces. These ships have sufficient stability margin to operate at up to 10,200 tons full load. CG 47 and 48 carry a small amount of lead ballast, but later units do not. Carry two 1,632 lb anchors, with 180 fathoms of chain to the bow anchor and 135 fathoms to the starboard anchor.

“The Ticonderoga class was initially designated as a Guided Missile Destroyer (DDG), but was redesignated as a Guided Missile Cruiser (CG) on 01 January 1980. Units are named for battles and campaigns (except for CG 51, named for a former Secretary of Defense and of the Navy). The ships are capable of carrying their formidable array of weapons and electronic equipment at high speeds over long ranges. They measure 567 feet from bow to stern, have a beam of 55 feet and displace 9,600 tons. Powered by four gas turbine engines, which develop more than 80,000 horsepower, AEGIS cruisers are capable of reaching speeds in excess of 30 knots. Two controllable, reversible pitch propellers and twin rudders add flexibility and maneuverability.”

“How many did they build?”

“27, 5 have been retired, including Ticonderoga, Yorktown, Vincennes, Valley Forge and Thomas S. Gates.”

“You don’t have a real Navy unless you have Battleships.”

“A CG equipped with Tomahawks is far more powerful than an Iowa class battleship.”

“Sez you. What they ought to do is take the #2 turret off one of the other ships and put it on the Iowa to replace her damaged turret. They could put her in dry dock, refinish the

hull and re-commission her. There nothing wrong with the ship that a good overhaul couldn't fix."

"They won't do that, the cost of operating these ships, the labor-intensive manning, and the more modern, more powerful cruisers and destroyers of today's Navy led to their final decommissioning."

"Fine, have it your way. A battleship can't protect us against our worst enemy anyway."

"Why not?"

"Our worst enemy is the planet. That's what Derek and I were talking about. A geologist at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, has come up with evidence our planet practices recycling on a grand scale. Writing in the prestigious British science journal Nature, geological sciences professor Claude Herzberg offered new evidence that parts of the Earth's crust that long ago dove hundreds or thousands of kilometers into the Earth's interior have resurfaced in the hot lava flow of Hawaiian volcanoes."

"This concept has been a big issue in the earth sciences," Herzberg said. While it had been proposed earlier by some geologists, the profession hasn't embraced it because evidence until now remained sketchy. "Many geologists felt that when Earth's crust was forced deep into the mantle, a process called subduction, it would simply stay there."

Herzberg claims to have found telltale chemical evidence at Mauna Kea that pieces of this submerged crust have been forced up through plumes and now make up most of this volcano's lava flow. "The low calcium in the Hawaiian magma pegs it as crust that had melted and been forced to the surface," he said. The calcium levels in traditional magma, which comes from melting the Earth's mantle layer below the crust, are much higher.

Herzberg said his research doesn't stop in Hawaii and that his chemical findings will be useful in understanding the makeup and action of other volcanoes around the world. These findings extend beyond calcium and include sulfur, along with isotopes of the heavier elements hafnium and lead that are tracers for clays and other materials that originated close to the surface prior to subduction.

"Chemical patterns we've found elsewhere used to be puzzles but are now starting to make sense," he said.

Still, the big island of Hawaii remains the prime site for uncovering the secrets of volcanic action, as it has the largest volcanoes on Earth and is the most productive in terms of lava outpouring. Herzberg believes the information he's uncovered about magma chemistry might one day help scientists predict eruptions, as different chemical abundances show up at different times in the volcanoes' eruption cycles.

"We could all end up being recycled."



“There aren’t any volcanoes around here, are there?”

“No, but there are enough in New Mexico, including one Supervolcano. Valle Grande, known to geologists as the Valles Caldera and the Jemez Caldera, is a scenic area in the Jemez Mountains of northern New Mexico. That’s north of Albuquerque. The Jemez Volcanic Field, including the calderas, lies above the intersection of the Rio Grande Rift, which runs north-south through New Mexico, and the Jemez Lineament, which extends from southeastern Arizona northeast to the westernmost part of Oklahoma. The volcanic activity is related to the tectonic movements along this intersection. They haven’t erupted for over 2,000 years.”

“If that’s the case they shouldn’t be a problem Dad.”

“I tend to agree, unless something sets them off in some sort of chain reaction. This was what we were discussing when you came, a chain reaction. A man doesn’t know when that might happen, so I plan to stay prepared.”

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We had elected a new government in the fall of the previous year, 2014, but the people who ran for office were, after all, still politicians. It’s easy to describe the average politician, degree in law, might not be power hungry, but adapts. They’re beholden to the people, or companies, that put them in office. Not to the average Joe Blow, like you and me, but to a select few. They campaign on term limits and then serve 30 years in Congress. As it was in the beginning, it is now and ever shall be, world without end. At least, that’s what the minister said every Sunday.

Some said we were loaded for bear, think elephants. The only reason Ron didn’t have a .458 Winchester was that there wasn’t a used one available. The round puts out about 2 tons of energy at the muzzle and is most often loaded with solids. I didn’t need one; I had the Tac-50 with even more energy and recoil management. The only thing was a fella needed Gunkid’s wheelbarrow to carry it.

Long story short, we got through the summer of ‘15 in pretty good shape. Must have canned close to 300 quarts of green beans, pints of beets, dug several tons of spuds and added another freezer just to hold the food we froze. We could get almost anything we wanted at the Paris Farmer’s Market, even rice from a fella from Louisiana. I gave Damon some money and sent him to New Mexico; we needed some really nice chili peppers. He went to Hatch, for the chili festival. He had to go through Roswell to get there.

I don’t know what he did over there, besides buy chilies, but before he got home, TS began to HTF, again. I wasn’t too worried, he took his shotgun. The first indication we had that anything was wrong was an announcement, claiming that Yellowstone was experiencing an earthquake swarm. It must have been significant, the Governors of Wyo-

ming, Montana and Idaho ordered evacuations of an area covering over 70,000 square miles (150 mile radius). The following day, they upped the radius to 250 miles, in Wyoming only.

“What took you so long?”

“I met this hot little number and...”

“Did you hear about Yellowstone?”

“Did they move it? What? Don’t tell me it’s going to blow!”

“Ok.”

“Ok, what?”

“I won’t tell you. They ordered total evacuations within a 150 mile radius and 250 mile radius within Wyoming. I checked and VEI-8 volcanic events have included eruptions at the following locations (Estimates of the volume of erupted material are given in parentheses):

- Lake Taupo, North Island, New Zealand - 26,500 years ago (1,170 km<sup>3</sup>)
- Lake Toba, Sumatra, Indonesia - 75,000 years ago (2,800 km<sup>3</sup>)
- Yellowstone Caldera, Wyoming, US - 2.2 million years ago (2,500 km<sup>3</sup>) and 640,000 years ago (1,000 km<sup>3</sup>)
- La Garita Caldera, Colorado, US - 27 million years ago (5,000 km<sup>3</sup>)

The Lake Toba eruption plunged the Earth into a volcanic winter, eradicating an estimated 60% of the human population, and was responsible for the formation of sulfuric acid in the atmosphere and the Millennial Ice Age.

Many other super massive eruptions have also occurred in the geological past. Those listed below measured 7 on the VEI scale. Most of these were larger than Tambora’s eruption in 1815, which was the largest eruption in recorded history:

- Aira Caldera, Kyūshū, Japan - 22,000 years ago (110 km<sup>3</sup>)
- Aso, Kyūshū, Japan - four large explosive eruptions between 300,000 to 80,000 years ago (Total volume 600 km<sup>3</sup>)
- Kikai Caldera, Ryūkhū Islands, Japan - 6,300 years ago (150 km<sup>3</sup> (bulk volume))
- Lake Taupo, North Island, New Zealand - 181 AD (100 km<sup>3</sup>)
- Long Valley Caldera, California, US - 760,000 years ago (600 km<sup>3</sup>)
- Valle Grande, New Mexico, US - 1.12 million years ago (~600 km<sup>3</sup>)
- Bruneau-Jarbridge, Idaho, US - 10-12 million years ago (>250 km<sup>3</sup>)”

“You looked that up.”

“Yes, I did. I’m good at looking things up. I figure that about half of the major eruptions happened in our country.”

“So, did it erupt?”

“Hasn’t yet, it’s just swarming. I figure that if they expanded the evacuation area, it must be getting worse.”

“How long will that go on?”

“In that BBC program, it didn’t take long at all, 15 minutes or so. How the hell should I know? If it’s like before, the swarming will die off and that will be the end of it. If not, it could be like the Mesa Falls eruption all the way up to and exceeding the Huckleberry Ridge eruption that was about 10 times larger. That Colorado eruption was twice the size of the largest they had at Yellowstone, 5,000km<sup>3</sup>.”

“When will we know?”

“When it happens and not one minute sooner, Damon. The crust is moving to the west over the hot spot, making the hot spot to seem to be moving east. The hot spot has been in the same place for millions of years and there is a path of calderas beginning in Idaho and moving east. The odds are the new caldera, if there is an eruption, will be to the northeast, maybe in Montana or on the border of Wyoming and Montana.”

“Did any of the ash from the previous eruptions reach Texas?”

“And beyond... the Lava Creek eruption made it to Louisiana.”

“So, if it were bigger, say on the order of 5,000km<sup>3</sup>, it would reach all the way to the east coast?”

“I suppose that it’s possible. That paper I have on my computer discussing Yellowstone says another major eruption, a Supervolcano if you will, would change life on earth. 1816 was the year without a summer, caused by the eruption of Mt. Tambora in Indonesia in 1815.”

◦

The swarming seemed to die down and the Governors allowed people to return to their homes. Yellowstone continued to experience double the normal number of small earthquakes, more than 6,000 a month. On average that was about 200 a day that were large enough to measure, ergo, greater than 1 on the Richter scale. I think a lot of people kept their cars packed, just in case. The USGS issued daily announcements, updating the public, again, just in case. It had started in September and by January the magnitudes seemed to increase, slightly.

It was like the boy who cried 'Wolf' when the Governors issued the second evacuation order, far fewer people left. Many people took a wait and see attitude. Then the YVO, represented by Jacob B. Lowenstern, issued an eruption warning. You remember Lowenstern from the program, *Supervolcano*, right. That's the guy that said it would never happen. Now people jumped into their cars and headed to the gas stations. The lines were very long, surprised? I wasn't surprised nor was I particularly worried. Even if Yellowstone let loose with a mega eruption, Paris was reasonably safe.

The boys' uncle Jesse lived in Casper, Wyoming. Do you know where that is? A smartass, like the late Ron would say, the same place it's always been. It's on I-25, about 280 miles north of Denver. Jesse and Lorraine traveled a lot in their younger days, but Jesse (born in '46-nickname Sonny) was a bit skeptical about leaving too soon and they left in their motor home at about as late as a person could leave and still make it. The two of them headed down to Cheyenne and picked up I-80 and headed towards Jerry's place in Ames.

The boys had kept in touch with both of their uncles and Derek got a call from Lorraine on his cell phone, about the time Yellowstone let loose, to say that they were in Kearney, Nebraska, west of Omaha. They were out of the immediate danger zone, but had a way to go to get to Jerry and Doreen's. In the middle of their conversation, Lorraine's phone cut out.

"Where were they?"

"Kearney."

"They should be ok. How fast was Sonny driving?"

"Like a bat out of hell."

"How were they on gas?"

"She said they'd have to stop in Omaha and fill up, but they should be ok."

"He won't find a station in Omaha with any electricity, Derek."

"He won't have to, they have several cans of gas. Sonny would give Lorraine an AR and she would cover him while he tops off. I doubt they'd do it in Omaha now. More likely they pulled off as soon as her phone cut out. You know how Uncle Sonny is."

"Still as prudent as he always was?"

"More. He picked up a pair of suppressed A2s right before the war."

M16s?"

“Yep.”

“He paid through the nose for those.”

“Less than you think, Dad. Remember, he used to live in Trinidad. He had a friend from down there who opened a class III operation in the Casper area. He told me they were pretty close.”

“I wish I’d known that.”

“How many times do I have to tell you, burst and full auto are only really used if you get ambushed by an overwhelming force?”

“You ought to get in touch with your Uncle Jerry and suggest the whole family come down here until the worst is over.”

“They wouldn’t come, but thanks for offering.”

o

From time to time, the USGS changes how they classify alerts. They now have a universal alert system.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) has adopted a common system nationwide for characterizing the level of unrest and eruptive activity at volcanoes. The new volcano alert-level system is now used by the Alaska Volcano Observatory, the Cascades Volcano Observatory, the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, the Long Valley Observatory, and the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory.

Under the new system, the USGS ranks the level of activity at a US volcano using the terms “Normal”, for typical volcanic activity in a non-eruptive phase; “Advisory”, for elevated unrest; “Watch”, for escalating unrest or a minor eruption underway that poses limited hazards; and, “Warning”, if a highly hazardous eruption is underway or imminent (Table 1). These levels reflect conditions at a volcano and the expected or ongoing hazardous volcanic phenomena. When an alert level is assigned by an observatory, accompanying text will give a fuller explanation of the observed phenomena and clarify hazard implications to affected groups.

#### Table 1. SUMMARY OF VOLCANIC ALERT LEVELS

**NORMAL** – Typical background activity of a volcano in a non-eruptive state  
After a change from a higher level: Volcanic activity considered to have ceased, and volcano reverted to its normal, non-eruptive state.

**ADVISORY** – Elevated unrest above known background activity

After a change from a higher level: Volcanic activity has decreased significantly but continues to be closely monitored for possible renewed increase.

WATCH – Heightened/escalating unrest with increased potential for eruptive activity (timeframe variable) OR a minor eruption underway that poses limited hazards.

WARNING – Highly hazardous eruption underway or imminent.

As part of the alert-level system, color codes (Green, Yellow, Orange, Red) are used to provide succinct information about volcanic-ash hazards to the aviation sector (Table 2). Volcanic activity threatens safe air travel when finely pulverized, glassy, abrasive volcanic material is explosively erupted into the atmosphere and dispersed as airborne clouds in flight paths of jet aircraft. The color codes are in accord with recommended ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) procedures to help pilots, dispatchers, and air-traffic controllers who are planning or executing flights over broad regions of the globe quickly ascertain the status of numerous volcanoes and determine if continued attention, re-routing, or extra fuel is warranted.

## Table 2. AVIATION COLOR CODES

GREEN – Volcano is in normal, non-eruptive state.  
or, after a change from a higher level: Volcanic activity considered to have ceased, and volcano reverted to its normal, non-eruptive state.

YELLOW – Volcano is exhibiting signs of elevated unrest above known background levels.  
or, after a change from a higher level: Volcanic activity has decreased significantly but continues to be closely monitored for possible renewed increase.

ORANGE – Volcano is exhibiting heightened unrest with increased likelihood of eruption,  
or, Volcanic eruption underway with no or minor ash emission [specify ash-plume height if possible].

RED – Eruption is forecast to be imminent with significant emission of ash into the atmosphere likely.  
or, Eruption is underway with significant emission of ash into the atmosphere [specify ash-plume height if possible].

My thinking on the subject of alert codes was that someone had been reading Patriot Fiction stories, thereby realizing that the system was totally screwed up. We had 5 volcano observatories and, at one time, 5 different systems. The Discovery Channel had something to do with that, they ran that mega disasters series.

No doubt if Yellowstone did go, we'd hear it. When Krakatau blew up, they heard the boom 3000 miles away on the island of Rodrigues near Mauritius. In the years before

the 1883 eruption, seismic activity around the volcano was intense, with some earthquakes felt as far distant as Australia. Beginning 20May83, three months before the final explosion, steam venting began to occur regularly from Perboewatan, the northern of the island's three cones. Eruptions of ash reached an altitude of 6 km (20,000 ft) and explosions could be heard in Batavia (Jakarta) 160 km (100 miles) away. Activity died down by the end of May. Also, to help the eruption along, water seeped into the magma chamber and created large amounts of steam and smoke. On 27Aug, the volcano entered the final cataclysmic stage of its eruption. Four enormous explosions took place at 5:30 am, 6:42 am, 8:20 am, and 10:02 am. The worst and loudest of these was the last explosion. Each was accompanied by very large tsunamis believed to have been over 100ft high in places.

The eruption produced erratic weather and spectacular sunsets throughout the world for many months afterwards, as a result of sunlight reflected from suspended dust particles ejected by the volcano high into Earth's atmosphere. This worldwide volcanic dust veil acted as a solar radiation filter, reducing the amount of sunlight reaching the surface of the earth. In the year following the eruption, global temperatures were lowered by as much as 1.2° Celsius on average. Weather patterns continued to be chaotic for years, and temperatures did not return to normal until 1888. British artist William Ashcroft made thousands of color sketches of the red sunsets half-way around the world from Krakatoa in the years after the eruption. In 2004, researchers proposed the idea that the blood-red sky shown in Edvard Munch's famous 1893 painting *The Scream* is also an accurate depiction of the sky over Norway after the eruption. Munch said: "suddenly the sky turned blood red... I stood there shaking with fear and felt an endless scream passing through nature." Also a so called blue moon had been seen for two years as a result of the eruption.

Krakatau had a VEI of 6 and put out 10km<sup>3</sup> of ash, about 2½ times as much as Mt. St. Helens (VEI 5) put out in 1980. The VEI scale is logarithmic, making a VEI 8 1,000 times more powerful than a VEI 5. Tambora, the volcano that caused the year without summer put out 5 times as much ash as Krakatau and had a VEI of 7. In the BBC movie *Supervolcano*, Yellowstone didn't let go all at once, it happened in segments with the number of vents increasing until it finally let loose.

## Silent Running – Chapter 26

Lowenstern raised the alert level from Advisory to Watch. (I wonder if he sent his wife to London, too?) The aviation code went to Orange and DHS followed suit. All this time I thought their alert level was only related to the possibility of terrorist attacks!

What commercial aviation there was, there wasn't much – the airlines had been forced to merge after the war, ended up rerouting flight paths to avoid flying within 500 miles of Yellowstone. Sharon said we'd better go to the store and I agreed, I decided to start smoking again; I missed my legs going numb. Hell I could barely walk anyway and the boys both still smoked; worse, my COPD hadn't improved, I had nothing to lose; no one lives forever.

Really Ready's website was up and running so I decided to download all the information they had on volcanoes and include it in my story.

A volcano is a vent through which molten rock escapes to the earth's surface. When pressure from gases within the molten rock becomes too great, an eruption occurs. Eruptions can be quiet or explosive. There may be lava flows, flattened landscapes, poisonous gases, and flying rock and ash.

Because of their intense heat, lava flows are great fire hazards. Lava flows destroy everything in their path, but most move slowly enough that people can move out of the way.

Fresh volcanic ash, made of pulverized rock, can be abrasive, acidic, gritty, gassy, and odorous. While not immediately dangerous to most adults, the acidic gas and ash can cause lung damage to small infants, to older adults, and to those suffering from severe respiratory illnesses. Volcanic ash also can damage machinery, including engines and electrical equipment. Ash accumulations mixed with water become heavy and can collapse roofs.

Volcanic eruptions can be accompanied by other natural hazards, including earthquakes, mudflows and flash floods, rock falls and landslides, acid rain, fire, and (under special conditions) tsunamis. Active volcanoes in the U.S. are found mainly in Hawaii, Alaska, and the Pacific Northwest.

### Take Protective Measures

#### Before a Volcanic Eruption:

- Add a pair of goggles and disposable breathing mask for each member of the family to your disaster supply kit.
- Stay away from active volcano sites.

#### During a Volcanic Eruption:



The following are guidelines for what to do if a volcano erupts in your area:

- Evacuate immediately from the volcano area to avoid flying debris, hot gases, lateral blast, and lava flow.
- Be aware of mudflows. The danger from a mudflow increases near stream channels and with prolonged heavy rains. Mudflows can move faster than you can walk or run. Look upstream before crossing a bridge, and do not cross the bridge if mudflow is approaching.
- Avoid river valleys and low-lying areas.

Protection from Falling Ash:

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Use goggles and war eyeglasses instead of contact lenses.
- Use a dust mask or hold a damp cloth over your face to help with breathing.
- Stay away from areas downwind from the volcano to avoid volcanic ash.
- Stay indoors until the ash has settled unless there is a danger of the roof collapsing.
- Close doors, windows, and all ventilation in the house (chimney vents, furnaces, air conditioners, fans, and other vents).
- Clear heavy ash from flat or low-pitched roofs and rain gutters.
- Avoid running car or truck engines. Driving can stir up volcanic ash that can clog engines, damage moving parts, and stall vehicles.
- Avoid driving in heavy ash fall unless absolutely required. If you have to drive, keep speed down to 35 MPH or slower.

After a Volcanic Eruption:

Follow the instructions for recovering from a disaster in Part 5.

Knowledge Check:

Read the scenario and answer the question. Check your responses with the answer key.

Scenario:

About an hour after the eruption of Mount St. Helens, ash began to fall in Yakima, a city in eastern Washington. The ash fall was so extensive and it became so dark that lights were turned on all day. It took 10 weeks to haul away the ash from Yakima's streets, sidewalks, and roofs.

Assume you were a resident of Yakima during this time. What would you need to protect yourself when going outside?

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Hell, I had more information on my computer! All we could do was prepare, if it happened, it happened, if not, so much the better. These were the first warnings they'd had at Yellowstone, but they were perhaps the most significant. I doubted it would until Derek got that call from Lorraine. Moments later, we heard the distant boom. The ash would be carried by the wind, the same as radioactive fallout, we had plenty of time, Yellowstone was about 1,100 miles away on a heading of 314°. The average wind speed in the US is 10-15mph and the usual heading is ~90°.

As storm systems moved across the country, ash could be blown in our direction. It would either be on the back of a low or the front of a high pressure area. Perhaps something as massive as the eruption could create its own weather.

*End Day* was a docu-drama produced by the BBC and airing on the National Geographic Channel that depicts various doomsday scenarios. The documentary followed Dr. Howell, a scientist, as he traveled from his hotel room in London, England to his laboratory in New York City, and showed how each scenario affected his journey as well as those around him, with various experts providing commentary on that specific disaster as it unfolds. The following description of the program was released by the BBC:

"Imagine waking up to the last day on Earth..."

"Inspired by the predictions of scientists, *End Day* creates apocalyptic scenarios that go beyond reality. In a single hour, explore five different fictional disasters, from a giant tsunami hitting New York to a deadly meteorite strike on Berlin."

Below are the various catastrophes depicted in the order they occur in the film:

**Mega-tsunami** – In this scenario, a volcanic eruption on the island of La Palma triggered a massive landslide wherein a sizeable portion of the island collapsed into the sea, causing a massive mega-tsunami to race across the Atlantic ocean and strike the east coast of the US, completely inundating New York City.

**Killer Asteroid** – This scenario begins with a mysterious 'missile attack' in a remote area somewhere in the Middle East. The 'missiles' are soon revealed to be small asteroid fragments, the advance guard of a much larger asteroid on a collision course with Earth.

The asteroid is located and an attempt is made to destroy it using nuclear ICBMs. The attempt fails, resulting in the asteroid being broken into hundreds of smaller pieces which then impact and obliterate Berlin.

Global pandemic – In this scenario, a virus similar to SARS or H5N1 is unleashed, wreaking havoc as it spreads at a phenomenal rate throughout Europe, the UK, and North America, prompting many countries to enact martial law and close their borders in a frantic attempt to contain the spread of the disease.

Strange matter – This scenario is the only one wherein Dr. Howell reaches his laboratory unhindered. Upon arrival, he and his colleagues initiate a highly controversial experiment using the world's largest particle accelerator. The experiment quickly goes out of control, resulting in the creation of a new type of matter called a strangelet, which begins to consume and destroy all matter around it.

All original official sources cite 5 different scenarios including a giant volcanic explosion, but the volcanic explosion segment was not aired during its first airing on the National Geographic Channel for unknown reasons and all references on the National Geographic website to it has been removed as of June 2006. Only the other 4 scenarios have been aired on NGC. However the BBC website still references to the *Supervolcano*. Each of the five shows, including *Supervolcano*, were intended to depict an Extinction Level Event (ELE). We all know about her because of Jenny Lerner and *Deep Impact*, Alan Rittenhouse's (James Cromwell) bimbo was Ele.

They did air *Supervolcano*, but as a separate 2 hour film plus expert commentary after, including, you guessed it, Jacob B. Lowenstern. I could be wrong but I heard the Narrator say something about 5,000km<sup>3</sup> of magma/ash. That's what must have happened to my crystal ball, Tom Brokaw dropped it.

Precursors to volcanic eruptions include strong earthquake swarms and rapid ground deformation, and typically take place days to weeks before an actual eruption. Scientists at the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory (YVO) closely monitor the Yellowstone region for such precursors. They expect that the buildup to larger eruptions would include intense precursory activity (far exceeding background levels) at multiple spots within the Yellowstone volcano. As at many caldera systems around the world, small earthquakes, ground uplift and subsidence, and gas releases at Yellowstone are commonplace events and do not reflect impending eruptions.

In addition to increased earthquake activity, active monitoring would detect significant changes in gas chemistry, thermal features, and uplift and/or deformation. Given the currently deployed system of multiple seismic monitors, gas surveys and deformation analyses in place in Yellowstone, we would know well in advance of a pending large eruption. – Lisa Morgan, Research Geologist

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You know about the Lake, right? How it's been uplifting since the '80s? If you look at a map of Yellowstone, you'll notice that it's on the east side of the park. They must have known something, they warned the Governors. I heard FEMA was running around trying to buy up MREs. They should try E-Bay, they'll find leftovers from New Orleans.

"Are we going to have to get into that damned shelter of yours?"

"Not if you don't want to, no. Catch me a few cups of ash, if you would."

"I don't think I could stand to stay down there for another 100 days."

"I said you didn't have to, Sharon. Do what you want, you usually do."

I can say that because after being married to her for a jillion years, I know how she is. They used to call it Neurotic, but the new term is Codependent. She'd do like she had the other 2 times, get into the shelter and try to make everyone as miserable as she was. Besides, who said we had to get into the shelter anyway? We were 1,100 miles SSE from Yellowstone. You did notice that it was MY shelter when she didn't want to enter, right?

"Are we going to get in the shelter, Dad?"

"Et tu, Derek?"

"Huh?"

"Sharon just asked. We aren't 150 miles downwind of Mt. St. Helen's. I read that we might only get a few centimeters of ash."

"Do you know how much that is?"

"Not really, but there are 2.54cm to the inch. Besides, it's too soon to tell how much ash will come out, it's still erupting."

"How long will that go on?"

"Until it stops?"

"Do you always give answers that are totally correct, even if they don't say anything?"

"I try. You know, I'm getting tired, I'm not sure I have another disaster in me."

"It doesn't matter, Dad, you have one whether you want it or not."

"I miss Ronald."

“You’ll see him soon enough, don’t be in a rush.”

“Well, you’re in charge this time. I think I’ll sit it out. Ronald always said, be careful what you wish for, God has a sense of humor.”

According to the news, a low pressure area was being pushed east by a high pressure area. About a week later, the sky began to darken. That ash was gritty, and sharp. With little other choice, we went down into the shelter and closed it up. We put our last sets of filters in the ANDAIR AV-150s. Fortunately, we still had electricity and hopefully wouldn’t need the generator. I took the opportunity to charge the battery in my wheelchair and strapped on my cowboy guns.

“Come and go breath, I’m too tired to help.”

“Did you say something?”

“I said come and go breath I’m too tired to help.”

“We have the air filters going, that should help.”

“As soon as I finish this smoke, I think I’ll fire up that oxygen concentrator.”

“Does it still work?”

“It did the last time I used it.”

“When was that?”

“I think that was back in ‘09. It was the day after my 66th birthday.”

“Why did you need it then?”

“I caught a cold.”

“Is that the last cold you had?”

“No, but it was the last one I had where I forgot to take Vitamin C.”

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“Wake up Dad, it’s time to leave.”

“Is the ash gone?”

“No, but it has stopped falling.”

“How much did we get?”

“About 10cm, roughly 4”. We shoveled a path for your wheelchair.”

“I think I’ll go off the oxygen and have a smoke. How long have I been sleeping?”

“Since we came into the shelter. You’ve gotten up once in a while to eat, go to the john and have another smoke, but you’ve slept about 20 hours a day.”

“Is my chair charged?”

“Yes sir, we’ve kept it topped off.”

“I’ll just hit the john and get my guns. Whew, I’m a little light headed. Could someone get me a cup of coffee, please.”

“You’d better check your blood sugar, you could be hypoglycemic.”

“Put the tester on the table next to my coffee. Give me one of those orange ReliOn glucose tablets.”

“I hate pricking my fingers, but I still did it, every time someone said my sugar was too low.”

“Hmm, I’ll take another tablet, could someone fix me a peanut butter sandwich?”

“What was it?”

“Not too bad, 54.”

“That too low.”

“I know, but peanut butter will fix it right up.”

It did explain my being light headed. I also had a Snickers Almond candy bar. After all of that, I rechecked my blood sugar, it was 78. I had my smoke and headed topside. I’d forgotten to ask the time, it was 6am and cold as a witch’s you know what. The sun was just rising and there must still be ash in the air, the sunrise was red. Derek brought up the oxygen concentrator and I turned it on, I still didn’t feel 100%.

## Silent Running – Epilog

*An old cowpoke went riding out  
One dark and windy day,  
Upon a ridge he rested as  
He went along his way,  
When all at once a mighty herd  
Of red eyed cows he saw,  
A-plowin' through the ragged skies  
And up a cloudy draw.*

*Yippee-yi-ya, yippee-yi-yo,  
Ghost herd in the sky.*

*Their brands were still on fire and  
Their hooves were made of steel,  
Their horns were black and shiny and  
Their hot breath he could feel,  
A bolt of fear shot through him as  
He looked up in the sky,  
For he saw the riders comin' hard  
And he heard their mournful cry:*

*Yippee-yi-ya, yippee-yi-yo,  
Ghost riders in the sky.*

*Their faces gaunt, their eyes were blurred,  
Their shirts all soaked with sweat,  
They're riding hard to catch that herd,  
But they ain't caught 'em yet,  
'cause they've got to ride forever on  
That range up in the sky,  
On horses snortin' fire, as  
They ride on hear their cry:*

*Yippee-yi-ya, yippee-yi-yo,  
Ghost riders in the sky.*

*The cowpokes loped on past him and  
He heard one call his name,  
If you want to save your soul from hell  
A-riding on our range,  
Then, cowboy, change your ways today,  
Or with us you will ride,  
A-trying to catch the devil's herd  
Across these endless skies.*

*Yippee-yi-ya, yippee-yi-yo,  
Ghost riders in the sky*

Written by Stan Jones, c. 1949, and recorded originally by Vaughan Monroe (later by Johnny Cash)

“Hey, partner, how did you end up chasing the herd?”

“I guess I didn’t change my ways, Ron. It must have been when I shot those 4 Blackwater guys. Never figured this would happen. You been doing this long?”

“Ever since. Linda gave you my guns, huh?”

“She did. I bought 2 cases of ammo for each of the rifles and a case of ammo for each of the handguns.”

“What’s that you have for guns?”

“I hadn’t noticed. It looks like I have my 2 Colt revolvers and my Marlin Cowboy rifle. Did Linda ever find the kids?”

“Brenda was in Bakersfield and Kevin is up ahead riding line.”

“Hey, I’m sorry about that. No blinding white light, huh?”

“No, but you’re among friends. I’ve got some good news and some bad news, what do you want to hear first?”

“Tell me the good news.”

“This only lasts an eternity.”

“And the bad news?”

“Your horse is named Salina.”

*Yippee-yi-ya, yippee-yi-yo,  
Ghost riders in the sky*

Every time you hear the song from now on, you’ll know the names of three of the riders and one of the horses.

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